ちょっと雨にぬれると気持ち悪いが、
ずぶ濡れになると逆にもう、気持ちいい。
夏休みの練習が終わると、
みんなユニホームは汗でずぶ濡れだった。

寺嶋裕二

Shonen Magazine Comics

KCM 4415

24

ダイヤのA エース

寺嶋裕二

Yuji Terajima Presents

Ace of Diamond

寺嶋裕二

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Ace of Diamond

連日激しい練習に打ち込む青道。一年の
チームの士気は高まるが、練習試合の結
そんな中、超高校級スラッガー・
薬師高校との練習試合が決定した！
新チームの実力を計る真剣勝

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻

■ダイヤのA (1)～

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2010.12

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みんなユニホームは汗でずぶ濡れだった。

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ダイヤのA(エース)は
週刊少年マガジンにて
好評連載中!!

ダイヤのA単行本第25巻は2011年3月17日発売予定

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA ①～

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ダイヤのA
エース

白州健二郎

無口で控えめな性格で攻守とも堅実。川上とは親友。二年生。

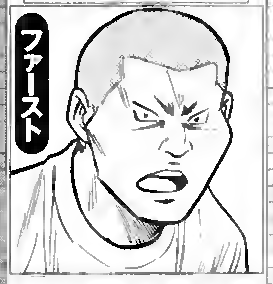
倉持 洋一

沢村と同室。沢村をイジメるのが好き。守備力と走力が高い。二年生。

川上 憲史

リリーフ経験豊富な抑えの投手。気の弱いところがある。二年生。

前園 健太



スタンドで誰よりも熱い応援を送っていた。レギュラー入りを狙う。二年生。

金丸 信二

目つきは悪いがいいヤツ。沢村と同じクラスで勉強などフォロー。一年生。

片岡 鉄心

部員達を心から信頼し、時には熱く、そして厳しく指導する鬼監督。

引退した三年生達

小湊 春市

秀逸なバットコントロールで高打率を保持。小湊亮介は兄。一年生。

沢村 栄純

出所の見えないクセ球（ムービングボール）が持ち味。折れない「ハートの強さ」が長所。一年生。

降谷 暁

剛速球が武器の投手で打撃力も怪物クラス。持久力に課題あり。一年生。

御幸 一也

投手の才能を引き出せる天才捕手。稲実・成宮に誘われた過去も。二年生。

青道高校

Chapter 202 / Towards the Top

Chapter 203 / Outsider

Chapter 204 / Secretly

Chapter 205 / What's Missing?

Chapter 206 / Motivation

Chapter 207 / Greetings

Chapter 208 / In Front of 3rd Baseman

Chapter 209 / Monster's Demand

Chapter 210 / Steps

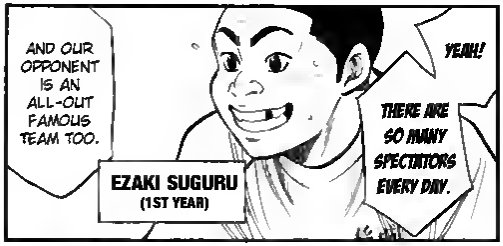
CHAPTER 202 / TOWARDS THE TOP

LOOK OUTSIDE. THEY'RE EVEN OUT AT THIS HOUR...
THEY SURROUNDED THE HOTEL
I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO HOME!
IDIOT !!
SUMMER'S KOSHIEN HAS FINALLY COME TO AN END.
THE 1ST GAME OF THE SEMI-FINALS—
HE REALLY LOVES THE FUSS—
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S STILL A KID...

INASHIRO TECH'S ACE, HARUMIYA, PITCHED WELL.
OI! IT'S IN THE NEWS!
What's with that face!
IT ISN'T ALL JUST ABOUT YOU!
JUST ONE MORE WIN LEFT TO THE TOP—
INASHIRO
GET TO BED SO YOU'LL BE READY FOR TOMORROW!
YOU'LL BE PITCHING AGAIN.
OI, MEI! HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA STAY UP!

IT'S NOT EVEN 8 YET. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SLEEP.
THAT'S WHY I SAY REST YOUR BODY!
BOR-ING~~
TODAY IS OUR LAST DAY IN THIS HOSTEL.

SENPAI DON'T CHANGE EVEN WHEN THEY'VE COME TO KOSHIEN!
HAHA
IS MASA-SAN THE TYPE TO GO TO BED EARLY ON SCHOOL TRIPS?
SHUT UP!


AND OUR OPPONENT IS AN ALL-OUT FAMOUS TEAM TOO.
EZAKI SUGURU
(1ST YEAR)
YEAH!
THERE ARE SO MANY SPECTATORS EVERY DAY.

ONE MORE TO GO TO REIGN OVER THE NATION!?
NOT TO MENTION, IT'S THE FINALS.

EVEN THOUGH IT FEELS SO UNREAL TO US LIKE BEING IN A DREAM.
SUGI RYOUHEI
(1ST YEAR)

FEELS LIKE IT IS A GIVEN FOR US TO BE HERE.
AND YET... SOMEHOW BEING WITH THESE GUYS...
THEIR BODIES MUST BE ALWAYS BE EXHAUSTED.
COMPARED TO US WHO DIDN'T GET TO PLAY IN GAMES
THEY CAN DO IT! IT IS UNIMAGINABLE FOR THIS TEAM TO LOSE.
TADANO ITSUKI
(1ST YEAR)
Irritated
GO TO SLEEP!! SLEEP LIKE A LOG!!
Mad
Hmm Well... I CAN'T SLEEP BECAUSE HAGA-SAN IS TOO LOUD!
PRO-BAB-LY...

I have to say this
That's right
IGUCHI-SAN
Shuu?
AH.
YOU'RE A GREAT HELP!
AS EXPECTED, IF IT WERE ONLY ME ALONE
I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN SO FAR ON MY OWN IN THIS EXTREME HEAT..
YOSHI-SAN AND TSUBASA-KUN TOO AS EXPECTED, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY BECAUSE YOU GOT MY BACK...
THIS YEAR'S TEAM MEMBERS ARE THE STRONGEST...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU GUYS AGAIN TOMORROW.
whoosh
稲城
IN... INCREDIBLE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY FOR AN INSTANT...
M... MEI BOWED HIS HEAD—...!?
MASA-SAN!

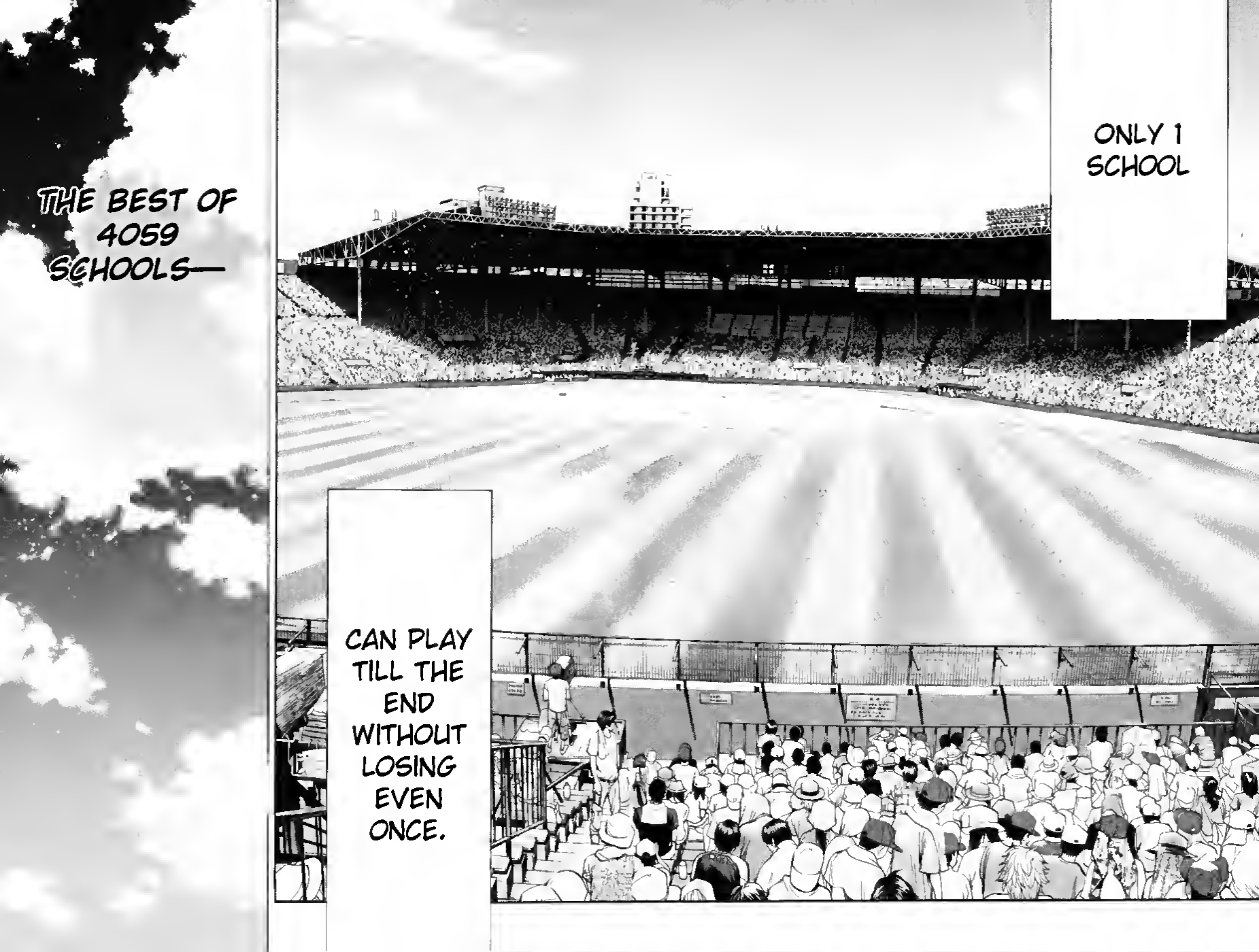
WE'LL TAKE IT! THE TOP!

OF COURSE!
WE WON'T HAND IT OVER AFTER COMING ALL THIS WAY!!

GOOD-NIGHT!
DON'T SLEEP WEIRD AND GET A CRICK!
YEAH! THEN GOOD-NIGHT—!!
MOST LIKELY, THAT GUY...
IT'S NOT THAT HE CAN'T SLEEP... ACTUALLY... HE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO SLEEP...
TOMORROW'S GAME
Let's create a fuss tomorrow—
Nnyuu
IS THE LAST BATTLE WITH THESE TEAMMATES—...

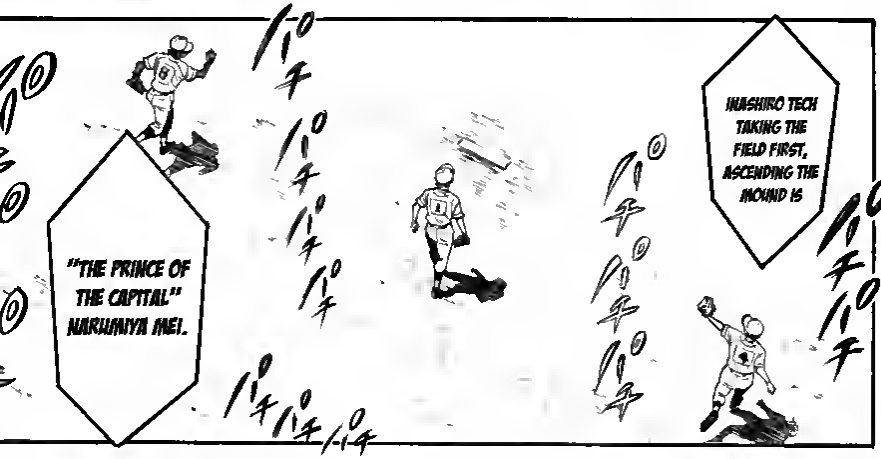
BECAUSE THIS IS ALSO HIS LAST BATTERY WITH MASA-SAN...
WIN OR LOSE
NOW THAT YOU HAVE COME THIS FAR, THE REST IS UP TO YOU GUYS GIVING IT YOUR ALL—

TAKING ON THE FINAL BATTLE WITH THAT IN MIND...
THIS TEAM MIGHT BE HAPPY THAT WAY—
THIS SUMMER—

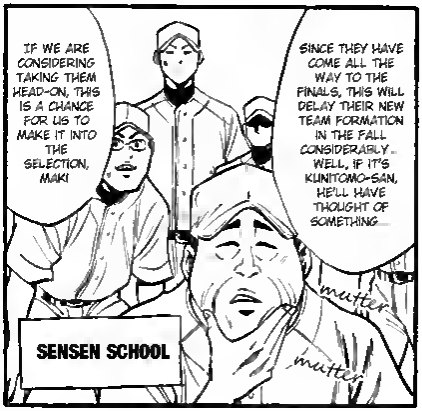

THE BEST OF 4059 SCHOOLS—
ONLY 1 SCHOOL
CAN PLAY TILL THE END WITHOUT LOSING EVEN ONCE.

NOW BOTH TEAMS HAD DASHED OUT, FULL OF SPIRIT!
clap clap clap clap
clap clap clap
THE FINALS OF THE KOSHIEN CHAMPION-SHIP—
clap clap clap
clap clap clap
clap clap clap

ETT
THE ONES PLAYING IN THAT STADIUM NEXT YEAR WILL BE US!!
OK, OK. LET'S WATCH THE GAME PROPERLY TODAY.
ICHIDAI 3RD HIGH

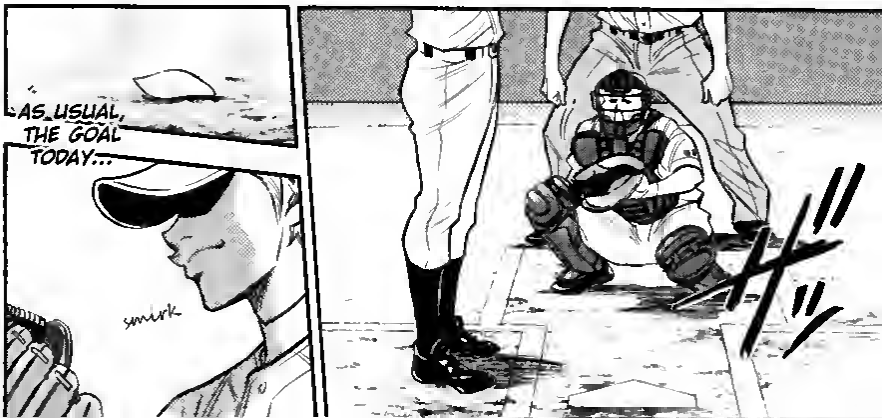

"THE PRINCE OF THE CAPITAL" NARUMIYA MEI.
INASHIRO TECH TAKING THE FIELD FIRST, ASCENDING THE MOUND IS

munch munch
AT THE RATE HE'S PITCHING, HIS EXHAUSTION MUST BE BUILDING UP!
A CHANCE FOR YOU TO BEAT NARUMIYA IN THE FALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF, RAICHI!

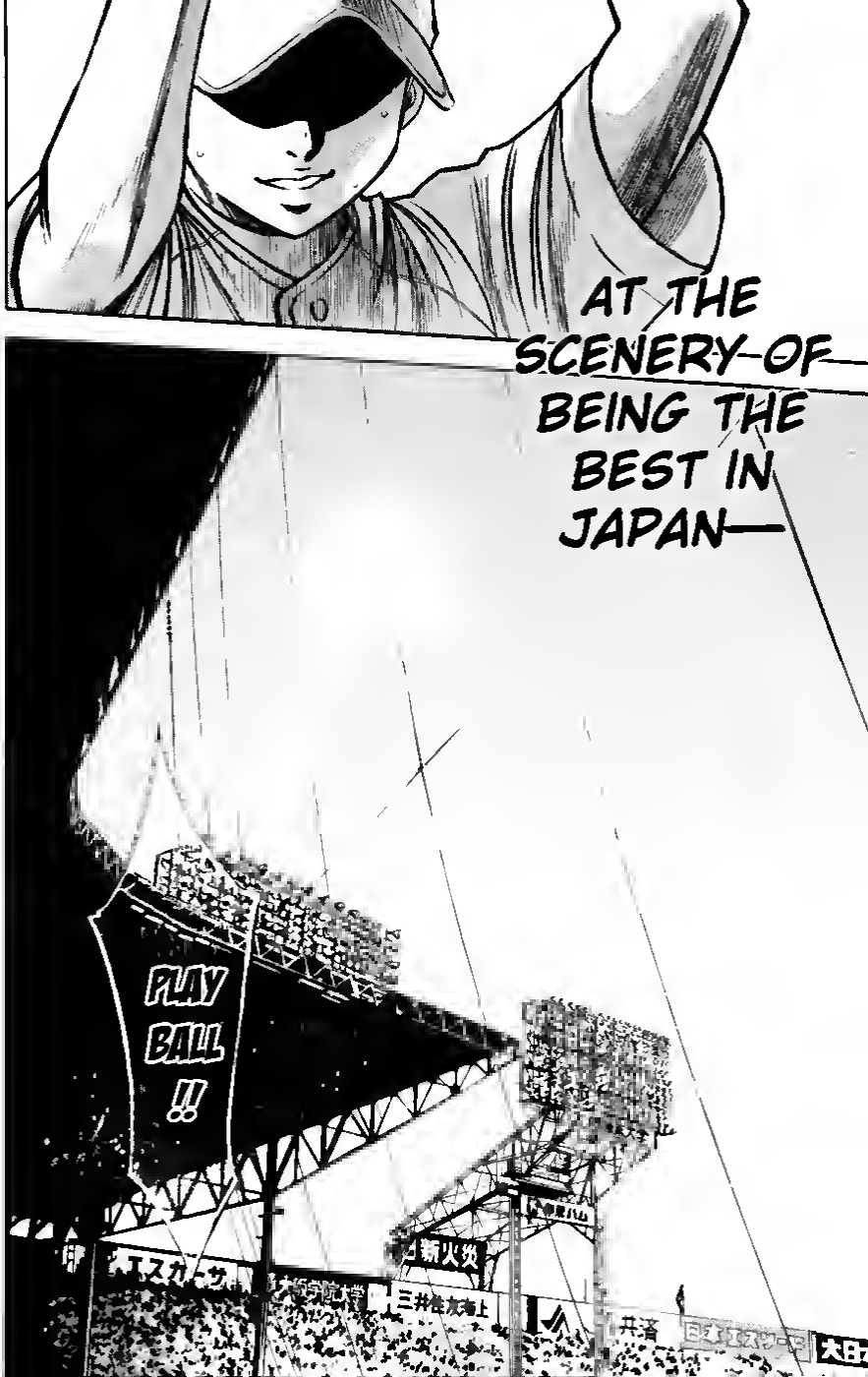

IF WE ARE CONSIDERING TAKING THEM HEAD-ON, THIS IS A CHANCE FOR US TO MAKE IT INTO THE SELECTION, MAKI
SINCE THEY HAVE COME ALL THE WAY TO THE FINALS, THIS WILL DELAY THEIR NEW TEAM FORMATION IN THE FALL CONSIDERABLY... WELL, IF IT'S KUNITOMO-SAN, HE'LL HAVE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING...
mutter mutter
SENSEN SCHOOL

ALL OF JAPAN'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE 2ND YEAR ACE
WHAT KIND OF PITCHES WILL HE SHOW US IN THIS FINAL?
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE GAME!
KOSHIEN...
FINALS...
1

RIGHT NOW, WHAT ARE YOU FEELING
AS YOU STAND ON THAT MOUND—!!
1

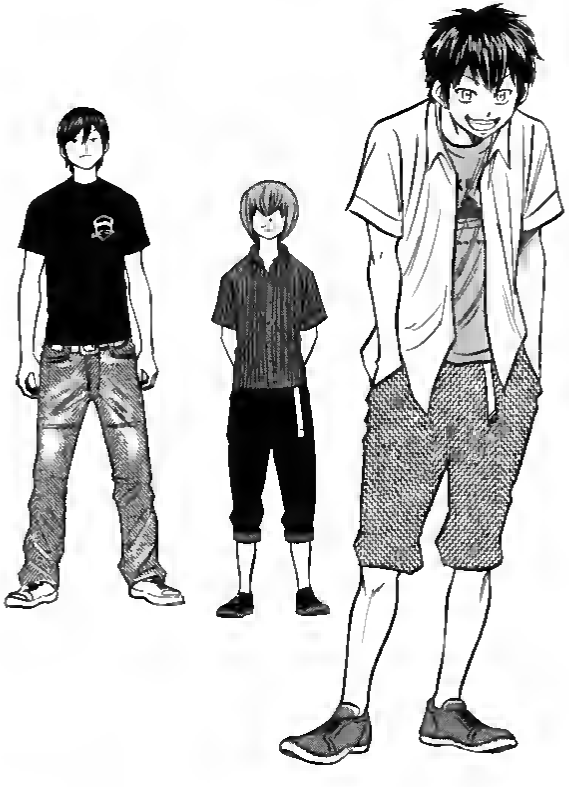

AS USUAL, THE GOAL TODAY...
smirk

IS
HUGE.
NOW
LET US
LOOK
HASHIRO

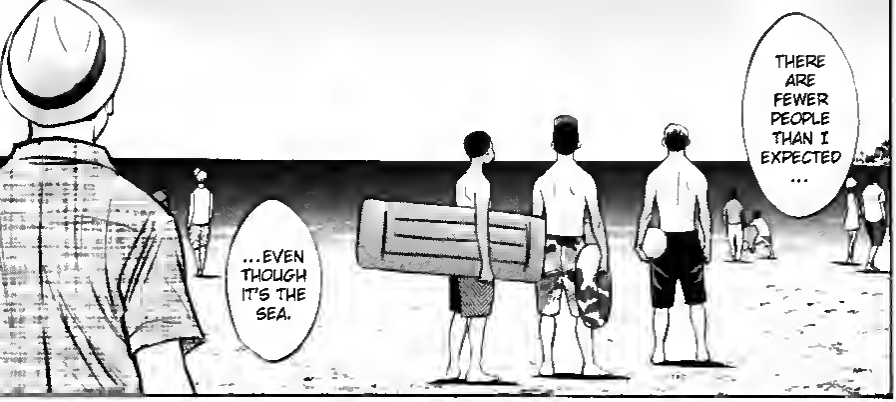

AT THE SCENERY OF BEING THE BEST IN JAPAN—
PLAY BALL !!

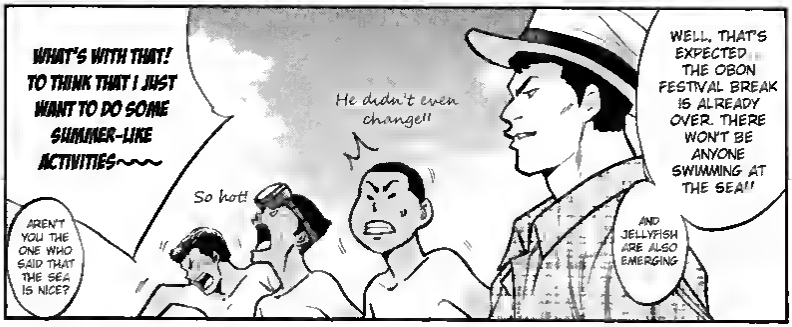
Ace of Diamond

CHAPTER 203 / OUTSIDER



WOW—— IT'S THE SEA——!!
I can finally get one. A real suntanned body!!
YEAH——!!
JUST SWIM, BASTARDS!!


THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE THAN I EXPECTED ...
...EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE SEA.


WHAT'S WITH THAT! TO THINK THAT I JUST WANT TO DO SOME SUMMER-LIKE ACTIVITIES~~~
He didn't even change!!
So hot!
WELL, THAT'S EXPECTED... THE OBON FESTIVAL BREAK IS ALREADY OVER. THERE WON'T BE ANYONE SWIMMING AT THE SEA!!
AND JELLYFISH ARE ALSO EMERGING
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID THAT THE SEA IS NICE?

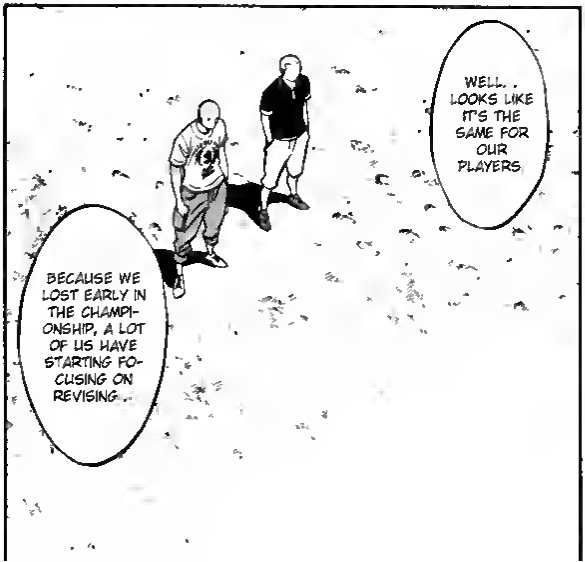
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LET'S SPLIT OVER A WATERMELON!
HAHA WHAT'S WITH THAT!

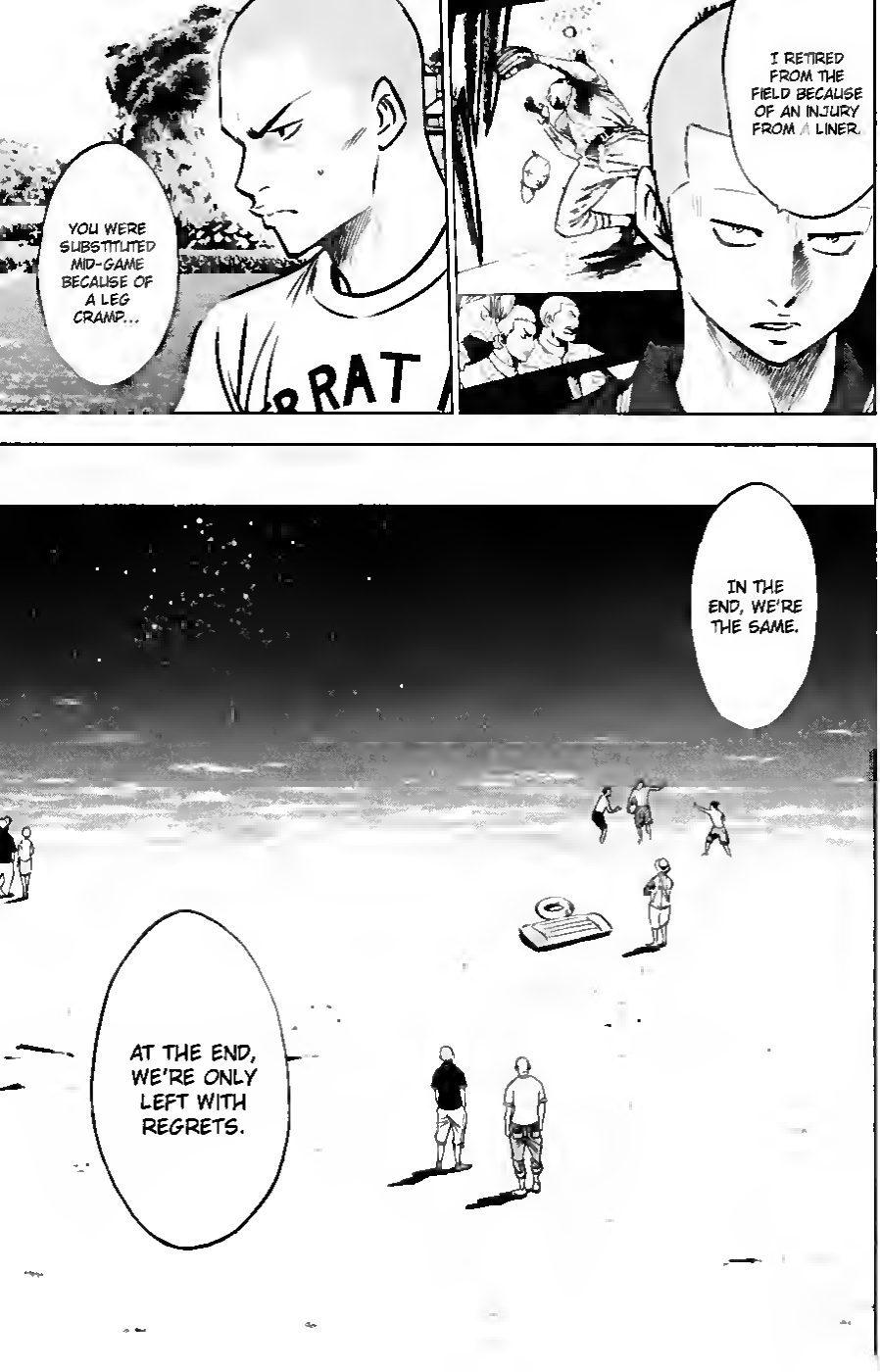
DAMN~~WE SHOULD'VE JUST GONE TO THE POOL~~~
THEY ARE BASEBALL PLAYERS... THEY CAME HERE TO MAKE MEMORIES...
Bastards
MOM, WHY ARE THESE GUYS ONLY TANNED ON THE FACE AND ARMS?

SORRY, KOUICHIROU.
ASKING YOU TO COME ALONG SO SUDDENLY, NOT TO MENTION WITH THESE GUYS...

MOST LIKELY.. I THINK THAT I WILL TAKE THE NORMAL ENTRANCE EXAM..
I DIDN'T GET TO PLAY MUCH AT ALL IN THE LAST CHAMPION-SHIP...
BUT.. I DON'T HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS ABOUT IT..

P/N: "REVISING" = INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH FOR "STUDYING" TO YOU AMERICANS. (FROM THE PRACTICE OF "REVISING ONE'S NOTES".)


BECAUSE WE LOST EARLY IN THE CHAMPI-ONSHIP, A LOT OF US HAVE STARTING FO-CUSING ON REVISING..
WELL.. LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE SAME FOR OUR PLAYERS.


YOU WERE SUBSTITUTED MID-GAME BECAUSE OF A LEG CRAMP...
I RETIRED FROM THE FIELD BECAUSE OF AN INJURY FROM A LINER.
IN THE END, WE'RE THE SAME.
AT THE END, WE'RE ONLY LEFT WITH REGRETS.

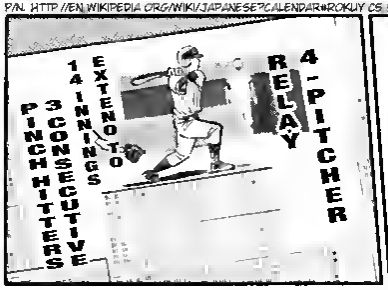
Dwah!
Ukulele!?
plonk plonk
WHO... DUG THIS TRAP!?
DAHH——!
IT'S ALL OVER...
THE FINALS... AT KOSHIEN...
How far are you going?
Come back here
splash
splash
Uwoh~~~

WE CAN'T GIVE IT UP...
AT THIS RATE, WE CAN'T GIVE UP ON... BASEBALL...

AUGUST 22ND
GOOD MORNING!
Morning~
MORNING!
IT'S HOT TODAY AS WELL, PLEASE BRING MORE ICE!
AL-RIGHT!
KOMADAI
FUJIMAKI
DRAMATIC
WALK-OFF
(Bases)
Took control of the close battle with Inashiro

Inashiro reaches the finals for the first time in 16 years
UNABLE TO REALIZE THEIR DREAM
AUGUST 22NO
FRIOAY ROKUYOU
14 INNINGS EXTENDED TO
NARUMIYA TRIED WITH HIS ENTIRE MIGHT
INASHIRO 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
KOMADAI 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 2 0 0 0
Prince of Capital Did his best

T/N: ROKUYOU ARE DAYS BASED ON THE CHINESE CALENDAR. ANYWAY, IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT RIGHT HERE
P/N: HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/JAPANESE%CALENDAR#ROKUYO_CS_SD

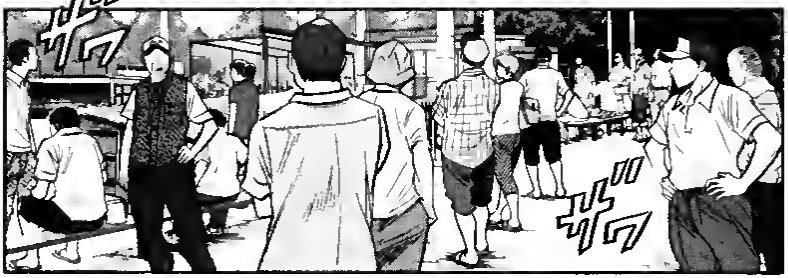


INASHIRO'S BATTERS GOT 2 RUNS FROM THE 4-PITCHER RELAY...
ALTHOUGH KOMADAI'S PLAYERS ARE ALL HIGHLY SKILLED IN THEIR OWN WAY...

I THINK THAT THE PLAYERS, INCLUDING NARUMIYA, FOUGHT TILL THE VERY END WITHOUT GIVING UP. BUT KOMADAI COACH NITTA'S SKILLED COMMANDS AND THE 4-PITCHER RELAY KEPT OUR BATTERS AT BAY.
AS EXPECTED, IT'S NOT EASY TO STAND AT THE TOP OF THE NATION. THAT'S HOW I FEEL. ALTHOUGH WE FEEL REGRETS, THIS EXPERIENCE WILL HELP THE PLAYERS THEMSELVES FOR THE NEXT...
Inashiro Coach KIMOTSUKI
CAME TO AN END FOR THE CAPITAL PRINCE.
東京都知事認可 社団法人 日本パーソナルコンピュータソフトウェア協会 JBSA
パソコン講記

SO COULD THIS MEAN THAT COACH KATAOKA'S STRATEGY IS NOT A FLUKE...
東地区高等学校野球連盟大会

REIGN OVER THE NATION
LEAD KOMADAI TO VICTORY
MAGIC NITTA
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PRESTIGIOUS


ザワ
ザワ

YOU GUYS, DO YOUR BEST!
DEFEAT INASHIRO AND REIGN OVER THE NATION NEXT YEAR!
HUH... EVEN THOUGH KOSHIEN IS OVER, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE STANDS?
...

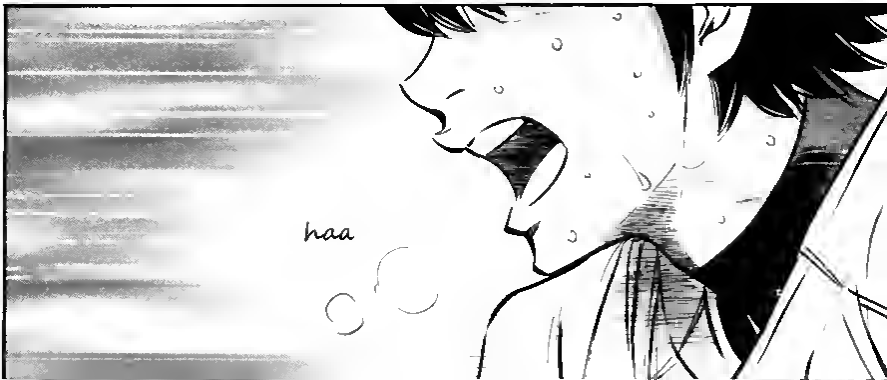
THE ONLY ONES TO GET 4 RUNS OFF THAT NARUMIYA IN THIS COUNTRY IS SEIDOU HIGH.
WE'RE COUNTING ON SEIDOU'S STRONG BATTING LINEUP AGAIN THIS YEAR!!
I SEE. SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS
THAT'S ONLY IF THE SENPAI WERE STILL AROUND
REALLY, THEY SHOULD HAVE BECOME JAPAN'S NUMBER 1
IF THEY HAD DONE SO, NARUMIYA MIGHT HAVE BURNED HIMSELF OUT AND LOST HIS DRIVE
IDIOT! THAT GUY IS NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON
WELL... WITH THAT, HE WILL BECOME A GREATER FORCE TO RECKON WHEN WE MEET HIM AGAIN!
DAMN YOU, WHY DO YOU SOUND SO HAPPY!

OI-OI, THOSE GUYS CAME HERE EARLY TO RUN!
AREN'T WE TRAINING FOR THE WHOLE DAY TODAY? DO THEY WANT TO DIE?

OUR BIGGEST REGRET IS THAT THE BATTERS WERE UNABLE TO BACK HIM UP...
ALL OUR TEAMMATES FOUGHT IT OUT WITH THAT THOUGHT IN MIND...
IF WE LOST WITH NAKAJIMA PITCHING, THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

HE IS THE ACE OF OUR TEAM UNTIL THE VERY END.
EVEN THOUGH HE DISLIKES IT, I WANT TO THANK THAT GUY.
ASHIRO
ASHIR

KOSHIEN—...


haa

I WANT TO STAND
ON THAT STAGE TOO—

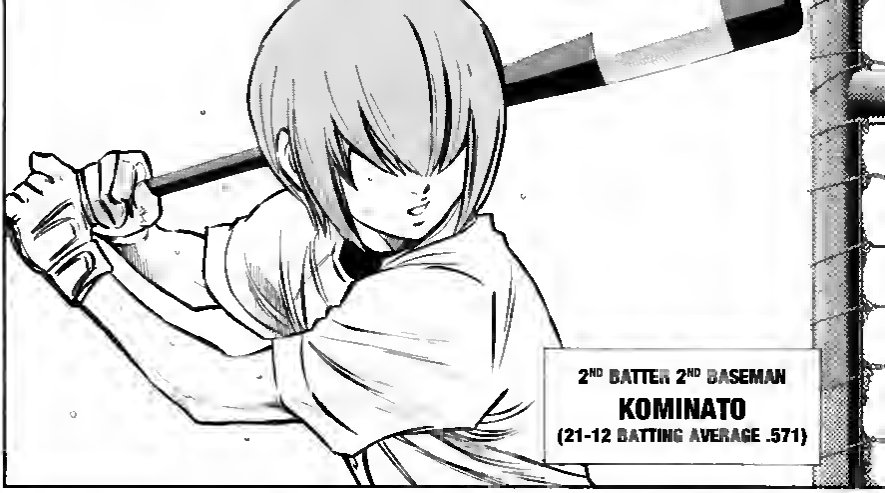
whoosh
WAIT UP!!
NO... YOU'RE SLOW
DAMN YOU— DON'T APPEAR IN FRONT OF ME!
That's enough
Damn
One more time!
ALTHOUGH FURUYA IS COMPLETELY LIKE AN ADULT
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED
BUT, WELL, IF HE WERE MAKING SUCH A FUSS, IT'S PROOF THAT HE'S CHEERED UP..
HE'S NOISY JUST AS USUAL... THAT SAWAMURA

ERM— ARE SAWAMURA AND FURUYA THOSE 1ST YEARS?
WHAT, YOU DIDN'T WATCH THE FINALS GAME?
HA... WELL...
W-water~
Wait up~
THAT BIG KID IS FURUYA SATORU
AN ORTHODOX RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER WITH INCREDIBLE PITCHES EVEN THOUGH HE'S A 1ST YEAR.
HE'S EVEN THE STARTER PITCHER IN THE FINALS GAME.
huff—
huff—
AND THE OTHER, NOISY PERSON IS SAWAMURA EIJUN.
A VALUABLE SOUTHPAW PITCHER ON THE TEAM.
THEN THERE'S THE RIGHT-HANDED SIDE ARM PITCHER, KAWAKAMI NORIFUMI
ANYWAY IF THOSE 3 SHOW IMMENSE GROWTH, THEY CAN BECOME THE HOPE OF THE NEW TEAM...

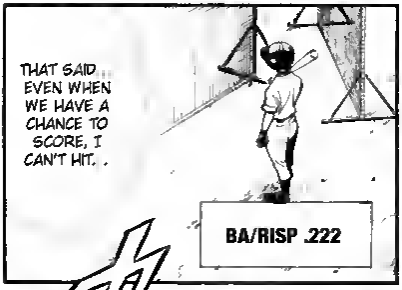
ALL 3 ARE DIFFERENT TYPES, HUH...
YOU... ARE YOU AN OB?
...NO, SORRY.
AN OUTSIDER...

CHAPTER 204 / SECRETLY

ALSO YOUR BATTING! IN THE PRACTICE GAMES, YOU DIDN'T SCORE ANY RUNS AT ALL!
KEEP DOING PRACTICE SWINGING UNTIL THE SKIN TEARS OFF YOUR HANDS!!
DAMN...NO MATTER WHAT, I WANT TO HIT BREAKING BALLS PITCHED TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER.
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE DROPPED FROM THE BATTING ORDER AND I WON'T GET TO PLAY IN GAMES...
3RD BATTER, 1ST BASEMAN
MAEZONO
(21-3 BATTING AVERAGE .142)
(LAST 5 GAMES)
THE PROBLEM I NEED TO TACKLE IS THE RIGHT BATTER'S BOX...
1ST BATTER SHORTSTOP
KURAMOCHI
(24-5 BATTING AVERAGE .208)



T/N: "BA/RISP" = BATTING AVERAGE WITH RUNNERS IN SCORING POSITION
("SCORING POSITION" = 2ND BASE)



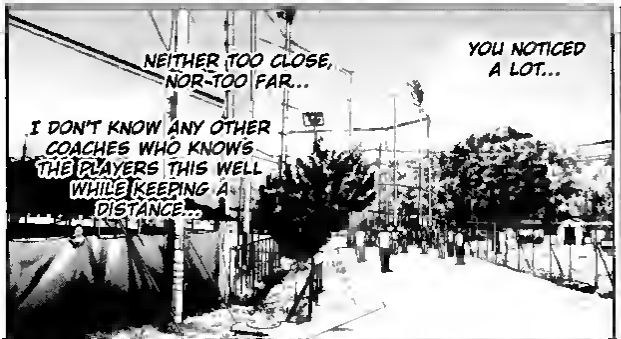
COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS TEAM, OUR BATTING LINEUP DOESN'T FEEL THAT STRONG..
AS EXPECTED, PRACTICE IS DIFFERENT FROM REAL GAMES...
IN THE PRACTICE GAMES RECENTLY, WE DIDN'T AVERAGE EVEN 3 RUNS.
IDIOT!
THAT'S WHY WE STAND A CHANCE TOO!!
THE BOTTOM OF THE BATTING ORDER KEEPS CHANGING.
THAT MEANS THERE ARE NO DESIGNATED MEMBERS YET—

FIELDING PRACTICE STARTS AT 1PM.
IT WILL BE LIKE A REAL GAME SO FOCUS!
NORI!
CAN YOU GO WARM UP?
HUH?
OOOOH!

I WANT THE BATTERS TO HIT THE PITCHES HEARTILY TODAY!
IT'S ALRIGHT TO PITCH EASY ONES... BUT I'M COUNTING ON YOU FOR POWERFUL AND LIVELY PITCHES.
JUST BETWEEN US
I CAN ONLY COUNT ON YOU FOR THAT DIFFICULT TASK.
Alright
I GET IT... I'LL PITCH.
SORRY, I'M COUNTING ON YOU!

WANTING TO REGAIN CONFIDENCE THROUGH PITCHING DURING BATTING PRACTICE AND FIELDING PRACTICE ..
ALTHOUGH IT IS THE WAY MIYUKI THINKS AS THE CATCHER, THERE MIGHT BE SOME TRUTH IN IT.

KAWAKAMI WILL BE FINE!
HIS PITCHING FORM IS IN NO WAY BROKEN...
HE HIMSELF IS FULLY AWARE OF HIS POSITION.

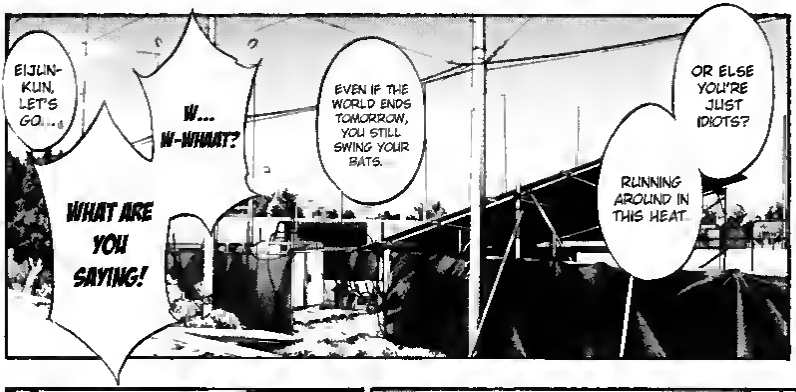

YOU NOTICED A LOT...
NEITHER TOO CLOSE, NOR TOO FAR...
I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER COACHES WHO KNOWS THE PLAYERS THIS WELL WHILE KEEPING A DISTANCE...

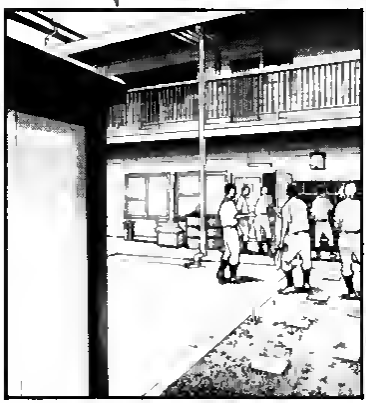
TIME TO EAT!
NOW—
I'm melting
I HEARD THAT IT'S 6!
WHEN DOES YOUR PRACTICE END TODAY?
HEY, YOU.
TO BE HONEST, ISN'T IT TOUGH... PRACTICE, THAT IS.
FROM 9AM?
THAT'S LONG.

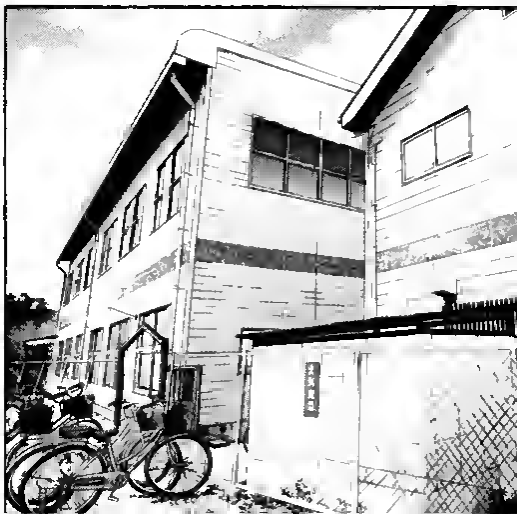
OF COURSE!
CONSIDERING ALL THAT, THIS TEAM... IS LIVELY...
WELL... IN THIS HEAT AND NOT GETTING TO PITCH MUCH.
I am dissatisfied!!
WE PRACTICE BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE!
WE WON'T SAY THAT IT'S TOUGH OR HOT!!

WELL THEN— PLEASE EXCUSE US.
Watarrr
IN GAMES, MOST PEOPLE WILL LOSE...
BUT... YOU LOST.
IT'S LIKE YOU ARE PRACTICING JUST TO LOSE...
SWEATING AND PUTTING IN EFFORT EVERY DAY,
SHOULD I SAY THAT IT'S GREAT... OR SOMETHING ELSE.

YOU GUYS ARE... TYPICAL EXTREME MASOCHISTS...
GUYS WHO PLAY SPORTS ARE ALL EXTREME MASOCHIST AND NARCISSISTS.
DRUNK ON YOURSELVES AND THE EFFORT YOU'VE PUT IN?


EIJUN-KUN, LET'S GO...
W... W-WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
EVEN IF THE WORLD ENDS TOMORROW, YOU STILL SWING YOUR BATS.
RUNNING AROUND IN THIS HEAT.
OR ELSE YOU'RE JUST IDIOTS?





GAH~~~ DAMN! WHAT'S WITH THAT OLD GUY!!
HE TALKS ALL NASTY!
DON'T MIND HIM...
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
HUH!?
A NEW...
COACH...?
YEAH .
Haa~~~ so cool~~~

IT'S NOT THE OB COACH WHO COMES HERE OFTEN
HE'S A SPECIALIST COACH...

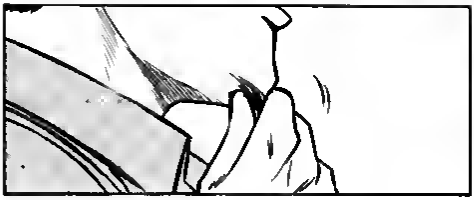
When I am not around.
HEY.. WHAT IS THIS SECRET TALK!
HUH? WE'RE GETTING A NEW COACH.

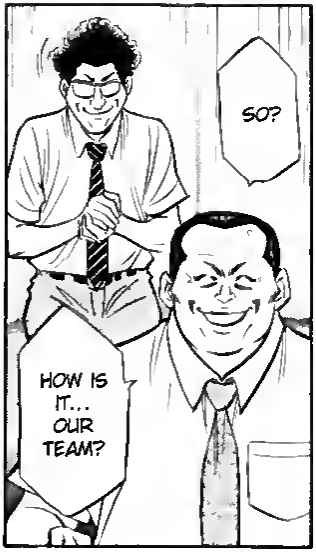
HE WAS HIRED AS A COACH AT THE PRESTIGIOUS KOUKAIDAI SAGARA IN KANAGAWA FOR 20 YEARS.
HE RETIRED VOLUNTARILY ALONG WITH THE PREVIOUS COACH, YAMAMOTO.
I HEARD RUMOURS THAT PRACTICING THERE IS USEFUL FOR PROS TOO..
SPEAKING OF KOUKAIDAI, THEY'RE REGULARS AT KOSHIEN..

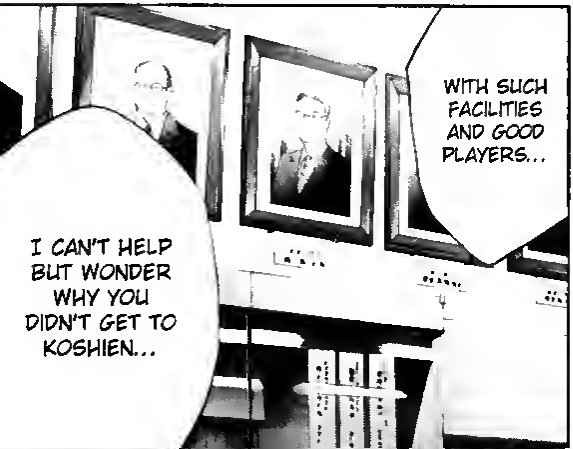
IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN... I HEARD THAT THE COACHES AND HEAD COACHES OF OUR SCHOOL ARE ALMOST ALWAYS OB...
#7
THAT KIND OF INCREDIBLE PERSON AT SEIDOU...
NOT TO MENTION, WHY NOW...
スリバ
HE HAS A GREAT DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO PHYSICAL TRAINING.
I THINK THAT IF HE THINKS OF A GOOD TRAINING REGIMEN, HE WILL IMPLEMENT IT.
I HEARD THAT HE CONTINUED TO REACH OUT TO HIM IN GOODWILL THIS PAST YEAR... THAT PRINCIPAL...
Well, well, well. It's good that we found someone good.
...
ACTUALLY SHOULD I SAY THAT HE'S LAYING THE GROUNDWORK... OR GETTING THINGS IN ORDER

ANYWAY, THE WHOLE TEAM NEEDS TO IMPROVE DURING SUMMER BREAK!
CHALLENGE YOURSELVES WITH THE PROBLEMS YOU FACE INDIVIDUALLY UNTIL THE FALL CHAMPIONSHIP!!
A NEW COACH...
YES SIR!!

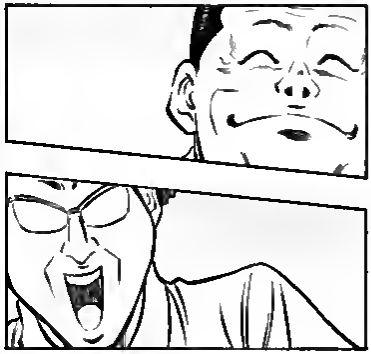
....HAA
IS THAT SO? YOU WATCHED THE PRACTICE FOR THE WHOLE DAY TODAY




SO?
HOW IS IT... OUR TEAM?


WITH SUCH FACILITIES AND GOOD PLAYERS...
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHY YOU DIDN'T GET TO KOSHIEN...

TN: TRIVIA. ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE A POTENTIAL SPOILER. OCHIAI HIROMITSU IS A REAL FAMOUS JAPANESE BASEBALL PLAYER. CURRENTLY A GENERAL MANAGER OF CHUNICHI DRAGON TEAM IN JAPAN



IT'S NOT THAT EASY AT ALL...
ESPECIALLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL.

CHAPTER 205 / WHAT'S MISSING

haa
haa
haa
haa
haa
YOSH, KEEP CHASING IT!
ALRIGHT, NEXT ONE!!
DASHAAA
YEARGH
Argh!!
thud thud

WHAT'S
WITH
THIS
haa—
THIS IS JUST LETTING ME RUN AS YOU LIKE!
haa
haa
OI— FURUYA!
DON'T COOL OFF IN THAT THIN SHADOW OF THE POLE—!!
Uraaaaaah!
YOU'RE PUSHING THEM HARD, HUH...
CATCH 5 MORE BEFORE WE END THIS!

DEVIL.
THIS IS THE ONLY TIME THEY CAN GET TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL HEAT OF THIS SUMMER.
I'M THINKING OF PUSHING THEM LIKE THIS FOR THE SUMMER BREAK
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY DEVELOP THEIR TECHNIQUES, THEY'RE STILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS...
IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO TAP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, I THINK THE ONES REGRETTING IT
WOULD BE THE PLAYERS BATTLING IT OUT ON THE FIELD...

I STILL CAN'T MATCH THE NAMES OF THE PLAYERS TO THEIR FACES...
I ALSO WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF PRACTICE THEY DO.
ANYWAY, I'LL BE WATCHING THEIR PRACTICE FOR A WHILE LONGER.

IF YOU HAVE ANY OPINIONS, PLEASE VOICE THEM FREELY.
I UNDER-STAND

IS THIS REALLY ALRIGHT?
IF IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM, WE ARE WILLING TO SET UP AS MANY MEETINGS AS IT TAKES.

EVEN IF THIS TEAM ADHERES TO MY STYLE.
SOMEHOW... ALTHOUGH I AM SHY OF STRANGERS..
HUH?
...SORRY

huuu—

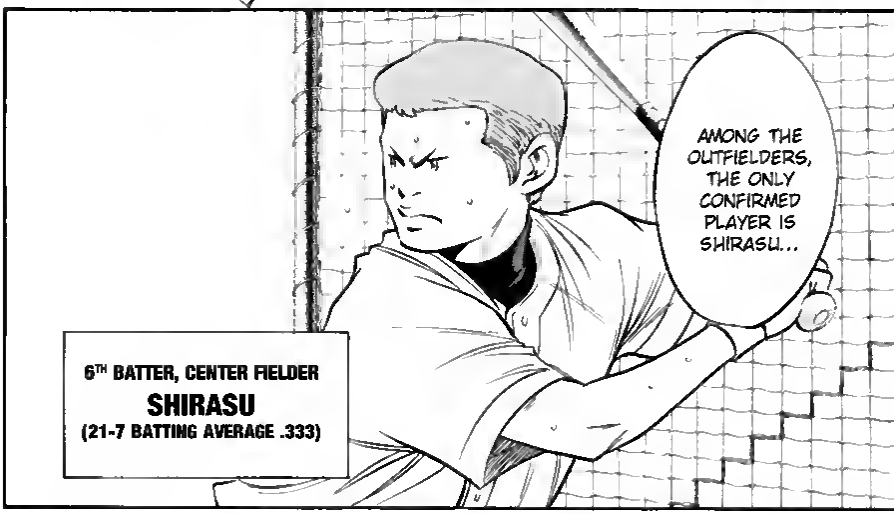
THAT GUY REALLY NAILED IT..
WOW—

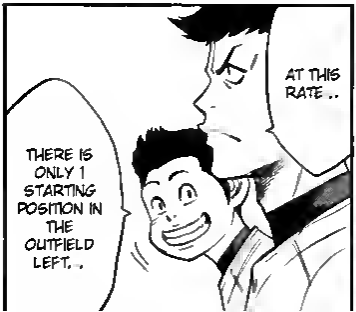
THANKS FOR PITCHING A LIVELY PITCH, KAWAKAMI-SENPAI!
TOUJOU HIDEAKI
(1ST YEAR)
I ENDED UP PITCHING FOR REAL...
THAT GUY... HAS A GOOD EYE.
Damn, that's depressing
IS THAT BATTER A 1ST YEAR?
YES...
HE WAS A PITCHER INITIALLY BUT...
You're doing well.
I'm not there yet!
HE WILLINGLY CHOSE TO TRANSFER TO THE OUTFIELD.

NOT EVEN 5 MONTHS AFTER I ENROLLED...
HE PROVED HIMSELF IN MIDDLE SCHOOL TOO. IF WE LOOK AT IT LONG TERM, HE'S A PLAYER WITH THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING A PITCHER.
hm—
HEY A DRINK
O, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
IF TOUJOU CAN'T KEEP THAT BATTERS AT BAY WHO ELSE CAN DO IT
THAT GUY ISN'T HE TOUJOU FROM AKIYUKITA JUNIOR LEAGUE TEAM WHO WENT TO THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS?
JUST AFTER THE MATCH PITCHING FOR ONE INNING HE'S LIKE THIS...
12
I'VE FELT THE FULL BRUNT OF HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL—...
NONE OF MY RECORDS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTER HERE...

THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW
TO STAY AFLOAT IN THIS TEAM...
TOUJOU ...
THIS IS THE ONLY THING.

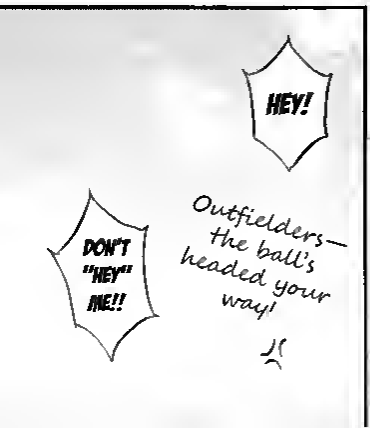
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE HAD JUST REMAIN A PITCHER.
HEY.
HEY
HEY
THAT GUY IS TOUGH!
HEY!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S GOOD AT BATTING, BECAUSE HE WAS FORMERLY A PITCHER, HIS SHOULDERS ARE STRONG...


AMONG THE OUTFIELDERS, THE ONLY CONFIRMED PLAYER IS SHIRASU...
6TH BATTER, CENTER FIELDER
SHIRASU
(21-7 BATTING AVERAGE .333)

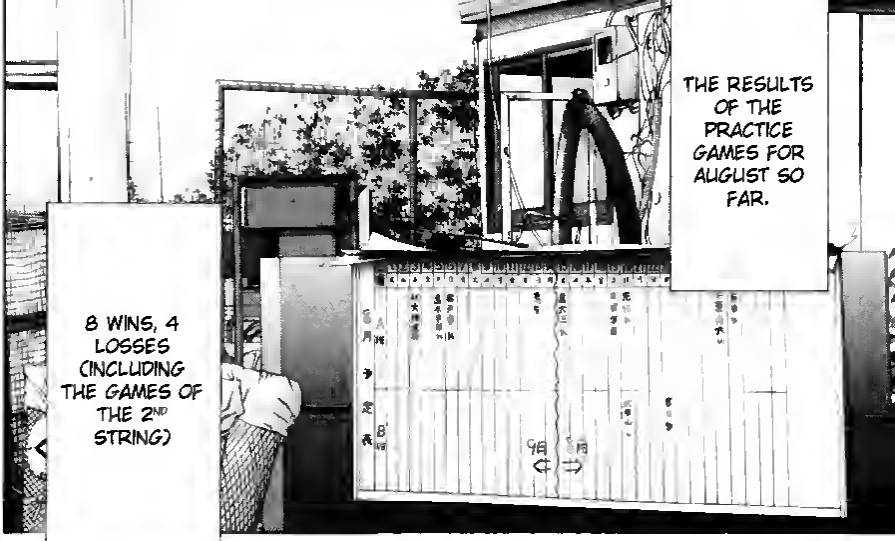

AT THIS RATE ..
THERE IS ONLY 1 STARTING POSITION IN THE OUTFIELD LEFT. .

That hand on your waist!!
That hand!!
Gulp
THE PRIORITY FOR LEFT FIELD IS GIVEN TO FURUYA WHEN HE IS DEFENDING

SEKI NAOMICHI
(2ND YEAR)
ASOU TAKERU
(2ND YEAR)
TOUJOU HIDEAKI
(1ST YEAR)


HEY!
DON'T "HEY" ME!!
Outfielders— the ball's headed your way!

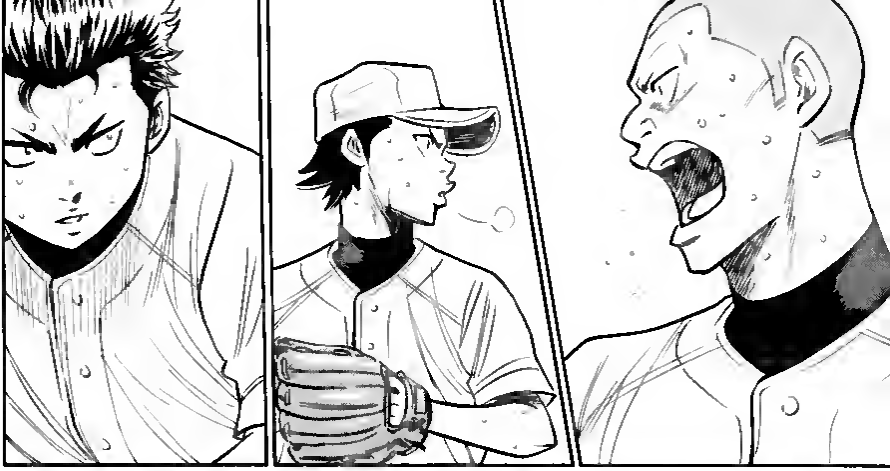
I DEFINITELY WON'T HAND IT OVER!!
FUFU...
FUHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA


THE RESULTS OF THE PRACTICE GAMES FOR AUGUST SO FAR.
8 WINS, 4 LOSSES (INCLUDING THE GAMES OF THE 2ND STRING)

ALTHOUGH THE WINS DOMINATE, THERE IS NO OVERWHELMING VICTORY AS THE TEAM LACKS THE POWER TO SCORE.

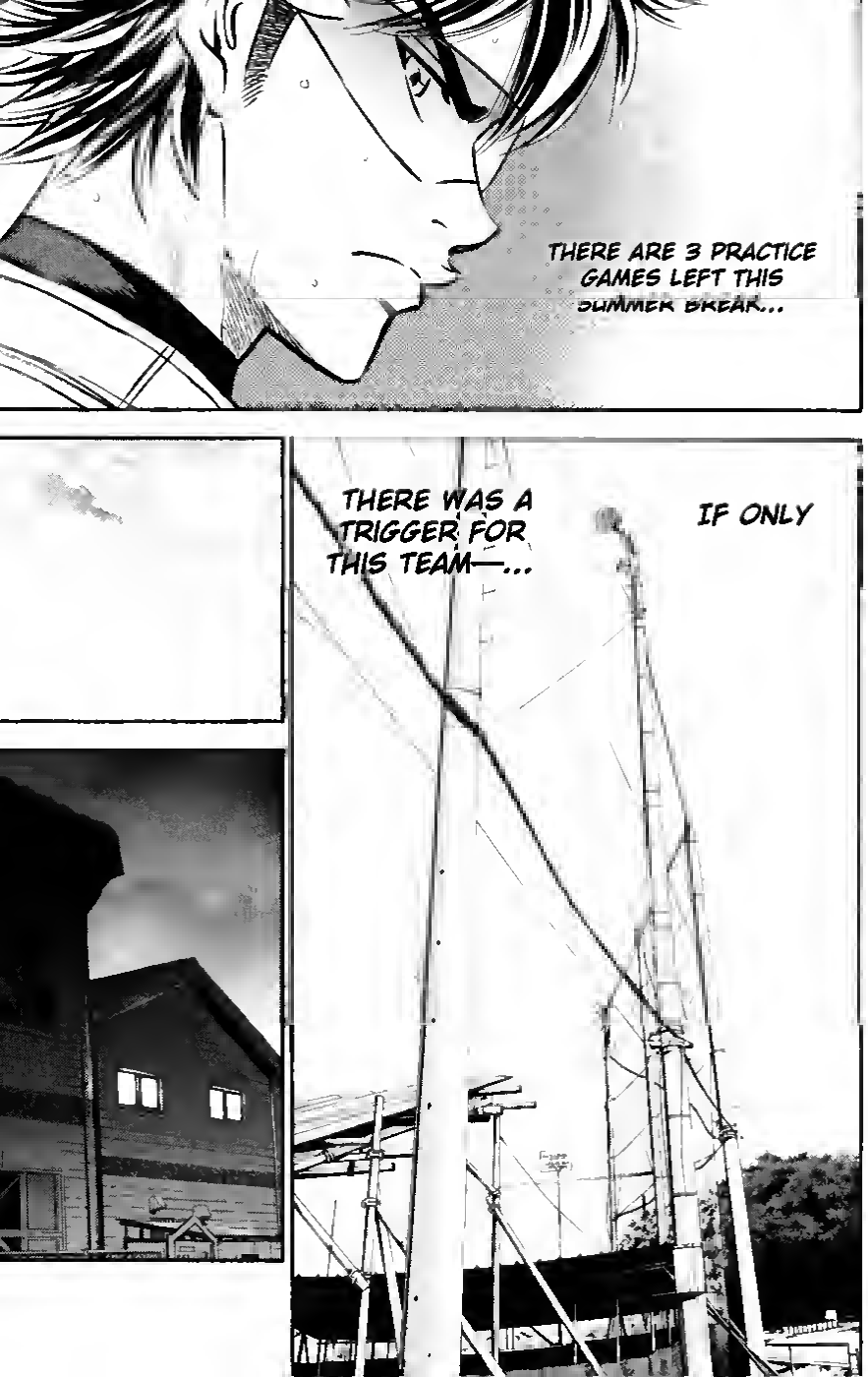
INSTEAD, THIS SITUATION
SOMEHOW I CAN'T SEE HOW THE TEAM IS FORMING UP. .

GAVE THE 1ST YEARS HOPE TO BECOME A STARTER
PLEASE GET ME ANOTHER BOX TOO
AL-RIGHT!
7TH BATTER
HIGASA
(20-5 BATTING AVERAGE .250)



THE 2ND YEARS ARE HARD-PRESSED BECAUSE THEY ARE FIRED UP BY THE 1ST YEARS...
RIGHT NOW WE'RE NOT WORKING VERY WELL TOGETHER..

burn burn burn
THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE WHOLE TEAM ISN'T BAD AT ALL.
Now, let's go to the bullpen!!


THERE ARE 3 PRACTICE GAMES LEFT THIS SUMMER BREAK...
THERE WAS A TRIGGER FOR THIS TEAM—...
IF ONLY

ARE YOU AGREEING TO IT? THAT GAME...
YEAH ...

HUH?

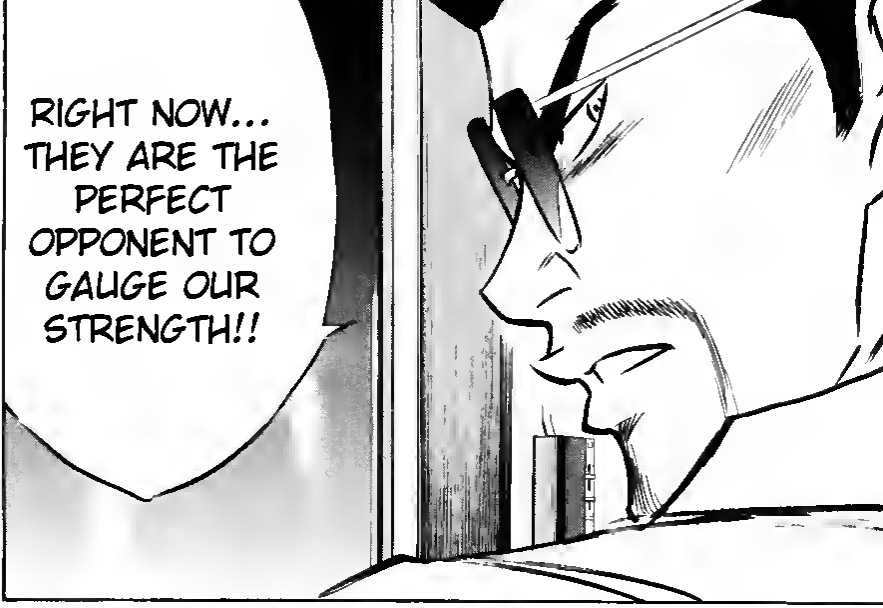
THERE IS A HIGH CHANCE OF FIGHTING AGAINST THEM IN THE FALL CHAMPIONSHIP AGAIN!
NO... NO WAY... THE OTHER PARTY SUDDENLY EXTENDED THIS INVITATION, SO IT'S FINE FOR US TO DECLINE!

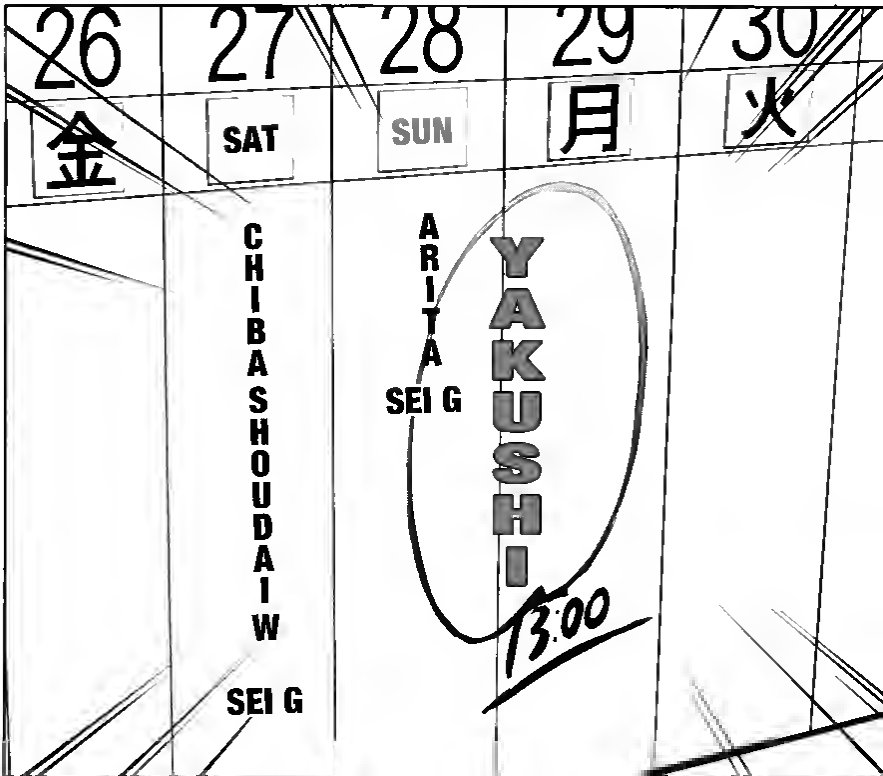
OUR OPPONENT IS A STRONG TEAM AND THE MATCHES ARE DRAWN RANDOMLY...
AND THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT THEY'VE WON EVERY PRACTICE GAME THEY'VE PLAYED.

INSTEAD OF BORING PRACTICE, THE PLAYERS ARE MUCH HAPPIER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GAMES THEY GET TO PLAY
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN ISN'T THIS GOOD... THE GAME

N... NO, BUT OUR TEAM ISN'T YET...

IF... IF THE PITCHERS' PITCHES ARE HIT,
IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO REGAIN THEIR FOOTING BY THE FALL CHAMPIONSHIP!?
...
WHY IS HE SAYING...
RIGHT NOW... NO MATTER WHICH TEAM, INSTEAD OF VICTORIES, THEY WOULD WANT EXPERIENCE...
BUT...
SINCE THEY ARE AN OPPONENT WE MIGHT FACE, EVEN MORE REASON TO BATTLE THEM...


RIGHT NOW... THEY ARE THE PERFECT OPPONENT TO GAUGE OUR STRENGTH!!


26
金
27
SAT
28
SUN
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月
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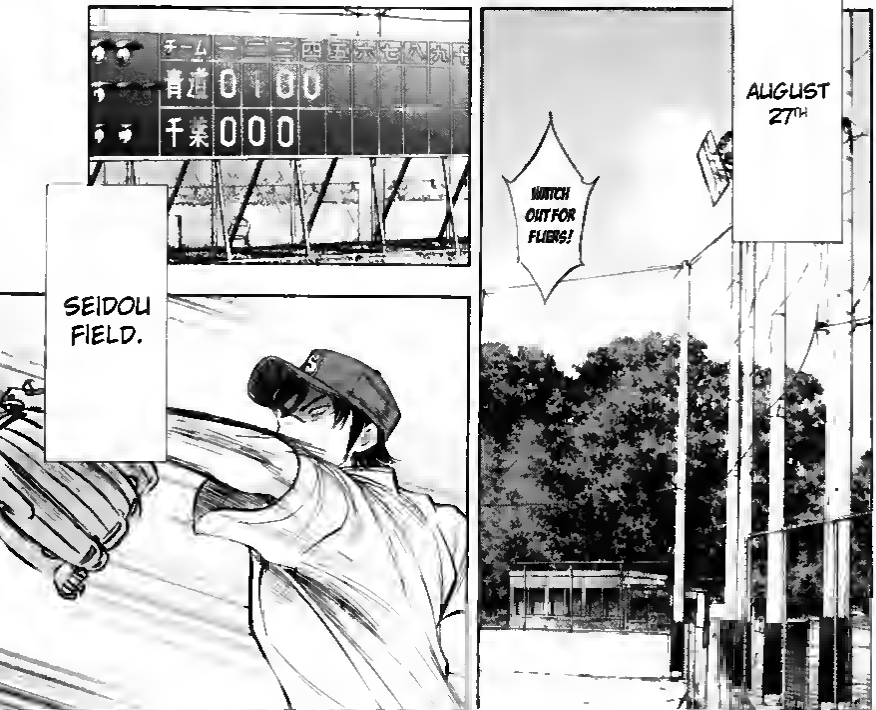
火
CHIBA SHOUDAI W
SEI G
ARITA
SEI G
YAKUSHI
13:00

CHAPTER 206 / MOTIVATION



PRACTICE GAME
SEIDOU
(West Tokyo)
—
CHIBA SHOUDAI
(Chiba)

Don't pitch so hard!
Pace yourself
A... AMAZING
TO THINK HE'S A 1ST YEAR. THAT'S GOTTA' BE AGAINST THE RULES...

S
S
TOKYO

IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE WE SCORED BECAUSE OF THOSE 3.
THAT'S RIGHT!
TCH
Shut up!
Nice. You met the minimum target
TUKI

It's been awhile since I had this feeling...
HAHA BASTARD——!!
YOU FINALLY HIT IT! THE HOMERUN YOU ALWAYS WANTED!

YEAH.... THE PLAYERS' INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES ARE QUITE HIGH.
THIS TEAM... THEY DO HAVE DESTRUCTIVE POWER...

WHY SUDDENLY...

BUT IT STILL GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE BATTERS AREN'T GOOD AT COORDINATING THEIR ATTACKS...

HUH?
A PRACTICE GAME WITH YAKUSHI!?
YEAH.
EVEN THOUGH THEIR INVITATION IS SUDDEN, I HAVE ACCEPTED IT.
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ

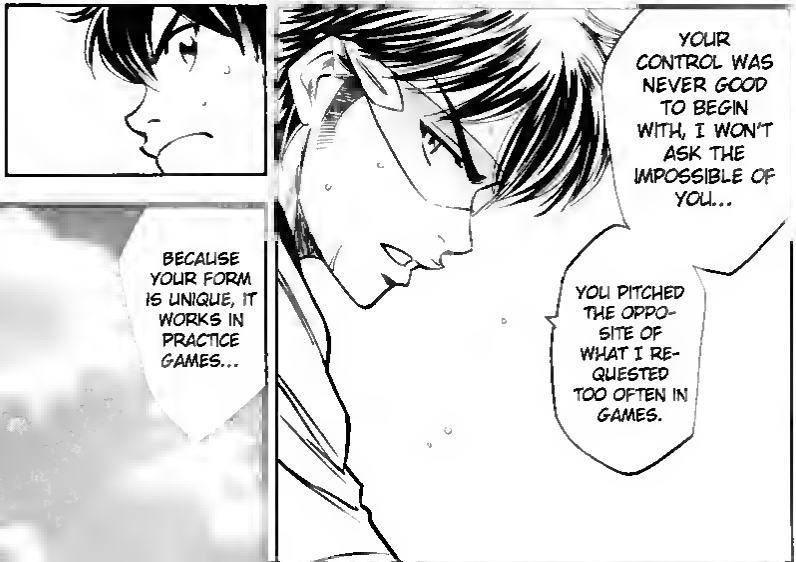
IT ACTUALLY CAME SO SOON... A CHANCE FOR REVENGE...
burn burn burn,
So hot
YES, SIR!!
OF COURSE WE HAVE TO WIN THE GAMES AGAINST CHIBA AND ARITA!
BUT IN ORDER TO NOT BE IMPOLITE WE HAVE TO FIRST GIVE PRIORITY TO THE GAMES WE ALREADY AGREED TO.
KAWAKAMI WILL PITCH IN THE GAME WITH ARITA.
IN THE GAME AGAINST CHIBA, FURUYA AND SAWAMURA WILL PITCH.

YES, SIR!!
THE GAME IS AT THE END OF SUMMER BREAK. YAKUSHI INTENDS TO GO ALL OUT WITH ALL OF THEIR PLAYERS.
PREPARE YOURSELVES WITH THAT IN MIND!
THE OPPONENT'S MAIN STRENGTH IS ALSO A 1ST YEAR..
DAMN— I WANT TO PLAY IN THE GAME AGAINST YAKUSHI TOO..
I WILL DEFINITELY GET THE POSITION.
THE 3 GAMES BEFORE THE GAME WITH YAKUSHI ARE IMPORTANT.
YEAH... IF I SHOWED MY WORTH HERE, I MIGHT BE MADE A STARTER.

T... TOUJOU GOT ANOTHER HIT!
WOW~~ A TIMELY HIT!
Bastard!
HEY!
DON'T HEY ME!!

depressed
YES, SIR!
SAWAMURA, YOU'LL BE PITCHING!
FURUYA, TAKE LEFT FIELD NEXT INNING!

SAWAMURA, WHAT IS THE THEME TODAY?
HUH? ...THEME!?
THE THEME IS... FREE!!


YOUR CONTROL WAS NEVER GOOD TO BEGIN WITH, I WON'T ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE OF YOU...
YOU PITCHED THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I REQUESTED TOO OFTEN IN GAMES.
BECAUSE YOUR FORM IS UNIQUE, IT WORKS IN PRACTICE GAMES...

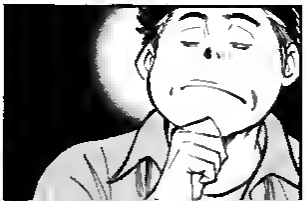
AS IT IS RIGHT NOW, IT WON'T WORK AGAINST THAT GUY.
KAHAHAHA
Badump

I'M PARTICULAR ABOUT PITCHING A FULL GAME
ANYWAY, LOOK AT MY MITT CAREFULLY AND PITCH SOLIDLY!
THE RESULTS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT RIGHT NOW IS ALSO THE TIME TO BE PARTICULAR ABOUT YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THIS GAME AS WELL!!
YES, SIR!!
C... COULD IT BE YOU DECIDED ON THE GAME WITH YAKUSHI AS MOTIVATION!?
THE THEME IS FREE CHALLENGE!!
HUH? WHAT!?
SORRY!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT THEY WANT TO CONFIRM IT.
BORING. DON'T WALK THE BATTER!
Please lend me your guidance!
EVEN IF THE OPPONENT IS THAT STRONG, I STILL WORRY ABOUT THEM..

THOSE GUYS WANT TO KNOW THE EXTENT OF THEIR OWN STRENGTH.

I DON'T KNOW THE OPPONENT'S INTENTION FOR REQUESTING FOR A GAME BUT...



THESE KIDS HAVE IT IN THEM RIGHT FROM THE START.
THE STRONG WILL TO FACE THEIR OPPONENTS.

ban

KAHAHAHAHA
UWOOH! 2 CONSECUTIVE HOMERUNS!
THE SPEED OF THE BALL FROM THE HIT IS INCREDIBLE!
WHAT'S WITH? THIS GUY
MEAN-WHILE, AT YAKUSHI FIELD
RAICHI~~ DID YOU STEP ON THE BASE PROPERLY~~
KAHAHAHAHA
Ah, damn!
HOW COULD ANYONE FORGET TO STEP ON BASES!?
HE LOST A HOMERUN ONCE BECAUSE OF THAT

THAT'S GOOD THAT'S GOOD
LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH HIS LEGS.
BUT THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY, SANADA!
GET READY FOR TOMORROW.

LET'S PAY BACK THE DEBT FROM THAT SUMMER TENFOLD!
FUFU... I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO ACCEPT OUR INVITATION.
FURUYA... SAWAMURA... KAWAKAMI...
AND ALSO... TANBA?
KAHAHAHAHAHA
I WILL SEND THEM FLYING ALL AT ONCE—!!
TANBA HAS ALREADY RETIRED!

CHAPTER 207 / GREETINGS

BUT YOU TWO PITCHED WELL!
IN THE FIRST GAME AGAINST CHIBASHOU WITH FURUYA AND SAWAMURA PITCHING, THE SCORE IS 6-2
IN THE 2ND GAME, B TEAM ALSO CAME THROUGH

SORRY!
IF WE HAD WON TODAY, IT WOULD BE OUR 10TH WIN.
DON'T MIND IT.
RESERVE PITCHER
KANEDA TADAHIRO
(1ST YEAR)
RESERVE PITCHER
KAWASHIMA KENGO
(2ND YEAR)

LET'S GET A WIN FOR BOTH GAMES TOMORROW AND BRING OUR SUMMER BREAK TO AN END.
He fell asleep!!

YOU SEEMED LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT TO REFLECT ON FOR TODAY.
SAWAMURA

TOP OF 9TH INNING
2 OUTS, RUNNERS ON 2ND AND 3RD.
IF I CAN CONNECT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING.
THE MEANNESS IN HIS PITCHES IS NOWHERE COMPARED TO THE EARLIER GUY...
HIS FORM'S WEIRD, BUT...

PITCH A TOUGH ONE, SAWAMURA—...
1ST BASE IS OPEN AND WE ARE AHEAD IN RUNS.
TOKYO

Bam

RUN!
RUN——!!
YEAH! IT LANDED!

THE GAME AGAINST YAKUSHI TOMORROW WON'T BE THAT EASY.
THAT WAS A COMPLETELY CARELESS PITCH.
WE MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH BECAUSE THE BATTERS AFTER THAT DIDN'T BAT WELL...
...
FURUYA'S PROBLEMS IS HIS PITCHING IN SITUATIONS WHEN THERE ARE RUNNERS.
nod
He woke up!!
KAWAKAMI'S IS GETTING BATTERS TO SWING FOR LOW PITCHES.

LET'S TREAT THIS LIKE A REAL GAME AND WIN IT.
EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE THINGS YOU WANT TO TRY...
ANYWAY, IT'S THE LAST GAME FOR SUMMER BREAK.

NO MATTER WHERE I GO. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE TAKING PRACTICE SWINGS...

ISN'T CREATED IN A DAY OR 2...
THIS ATMOSPHERE
You make swinging look easy~
...
IS THIS THE LEGACY OF THE PREVIOUS GENERATION...

AUGUST 28TH
S
B
O
0 0 1 0
1 0 0 2

LET HIM HIT IT, NO- N—!!
1ST GAME
ARITA
(CHIBA)
—
SEIDOU
(WEST TOKYO)
2 OUT, 2 OUT!

FUH!
KOMINATO OTOUTO!!
P/N: OTOUTO = YOUNGER/LITTLE BROTHER. "KOMINATO OTOUTO" WOULD BE EQUIVALENT OF AN AMERICAN CROWD CALLING HIM "JUNIOR!"
BEING ABLE TO HANDLE IT SO EASILY REALLY HELPS THE PITCHER.
WOW! HE CAUGHT IT!
THE GAP LEFT BY RYOUSUKE IS COMPLETELY FILLED IN BY HIS YOUNGER BROTHER

LOOKS LIKE KAWAKAMI HASN'T REGAINED HIS COMPOSURE, BUT IS THE CONDITION OF THE TEAM GETTING BETTER?
HE STILL HAS ROOM TO IMPROVE.
NO-NO, HE'S STILL A 1ST YEAR.
YES, SIR!
NICE KAWA-KAMI!!
KAWAKAMI, YOU'RE OUT IN THE NEXT INNING!
YOU'LL CLOSE FOR THE NEXT GAME TOO!
YES, SIR!!
KANEDA, GET READY AS WELL!
KAWASHIMA YOU'RE IN FOR THE NEXT INNING!!

WATCH CLOSE-LY—
MORE POP-UPS!
PUT MORE STRENG-TH
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
THAT HURTS! IDIOT!
push
rustle
rustle
THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN STRETCHING ON MY OWN.
push
OUCH!

WOW! THEY HAVE 2 FIELDS!
WITH SUCH A HUGE SPACE, THEY CAN DO ANY KIND OF TRAINING.
Ah
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS THE STARTER?
YO.
IF YOU GUYS ARE HERE, THAT MEANS YOU ARE PITCHING FOR OUR GAME.

KAHA-
HAHA!!
WHICH ONE!
NO MATTER WHICH OF YOU, I WILL SEND YOU—FLYING!!

HUH?
HOW MANY WINS AND LOSSES DID YOU GET FOR THE SUMMER BREAK?
SHOW SOME MANNERS BEFORE GETTING ON THE FIELD
KAHAHAHAHA
DON'T STAND IN FRONT OF ME!
MOVE!!
Yay
IF WE WIN TODAY, IT WILL BE 20 CONSECUTIVE WINS.
HOW MANY RUNS DO YOU WANT TO GET!
there aren't that many innings!!
KAHAHAHAHA
HEY!
LAST TIME I GOT A HOMERUN OFF EACH OF YOU
TODAY I WILL SEND 5 HOMERUNS FLYING!
Show off ?

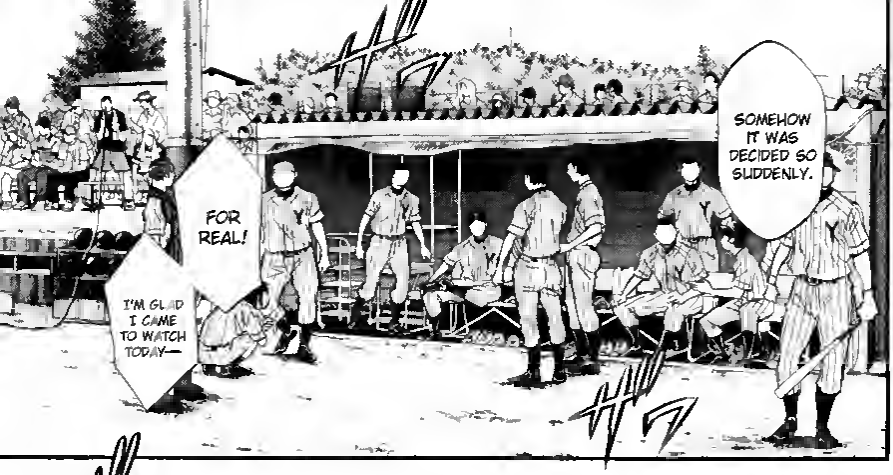
THEN SEE YOU LATER.
Kahahaha
Let's do it!! Let's do it right now!!
Quit it! Are you a wild dog!!
LET'S HAVE A BLAST!
burn
burn
GRRR ... RRR
burn
GRRR!!
青道
FURUYA, HOW MANY CONSECUTIVE WINS DO WE HAVE RIGHT NOW!?
I FORGOT
...HM
THAT'S IRRITATING, DAMN-IT~~!!

S
B
O
チーム 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 計
有田 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 3
青道 1 0 0 2 1 0 0 0 4

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE TODAY.

NO-NO.
WE'RE THE ONES WHO ASKED FOR A GAME OUT OF THE BLUE...

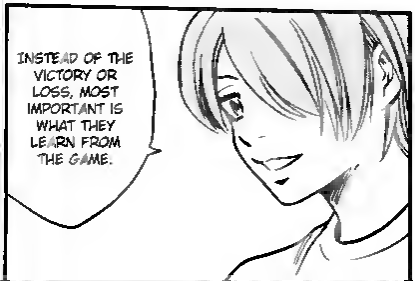
CHAPTER 208 / IN FRONT OF THE 3RD BASEMAN


SOMEHOW IT WAS DECIDED SO SUDDENLY.
FOR REAL!
I'M GLAD I CAME TO WATCH TODAY—

SINCE THIS CHANCE DOESN'T COME OFTEN, WE'LL STAY TO WATCH
THE RUMOURS ABOUT YAKUSHI HIGH EVEN REACHED ALL THE WAY TO CHIBA
ARITA HIGH COACH
UEDA SHINYA

EVERYONE HAS THAT KIND OF FEELING SO IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT

IS IT ALRIGHT SINCE THEY MIGHT PLAY AGAINST EACH OTHER IN THE FALL CHAMPION-SHIP...


INSTEAD OF THE VICTORY OR LOSS, MOST IMPORTANT IS WHAT THEY LEARN FROM THE GAME.

1ST BATTER, SHORTSTOP
KURAMOCHI
2ND BATTER, 2ND BASE
KOMINATO
3RD BATTER, 1ST BASE
MAEZONO
4TH BATTER, CATCHER
MIYUKI
5TH BATTER, PITCHER
FURUYA
6TH BATTER, RIGHT FIELD
SHIRASU
7TH BATTER, 3RD BASE
HIGASA
8TH BATTER, LEFT FIELD
ASOU
9TH BATTER, CENTER FIELD
TOUJOU

YES, SIR!!
SAWAMURA AND KAWAKAMI WILL TAKE THE MOUND IN THAT ORDER.
FURUYA WILL GO TO THE LEFT FIELD FROM THE 4TH INNING.
Starter...
I JUST HAVE TO DO IT!
whisper
whisper
USE THIS CHANCE AND MAKE IT ONTO THE 1ST STRING!
YOU DID IT! BECOMING A STARTER!
HE REALLY...
INTENDS TO WIN THIS GAME FOR REAL—
Damn
I'M A BACKUP LEFT FIELDER.
ALMOST ALL THE STARTERS PLAYED IN THE 1ST GAME...

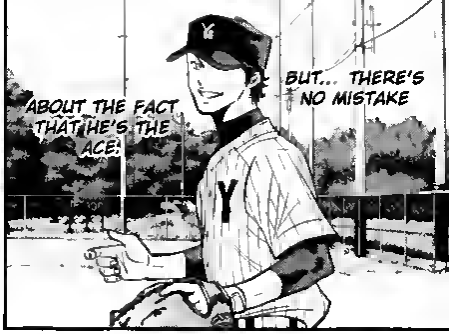
IN A FRONTAL ASSAULT, THE ONE THAT OVERCOMES THE OPPONENT WITH STRENGTH WINS!!
THERE'S NO NEED TO PROBE THEIR REAL INTENTIONS...
LINE UP!

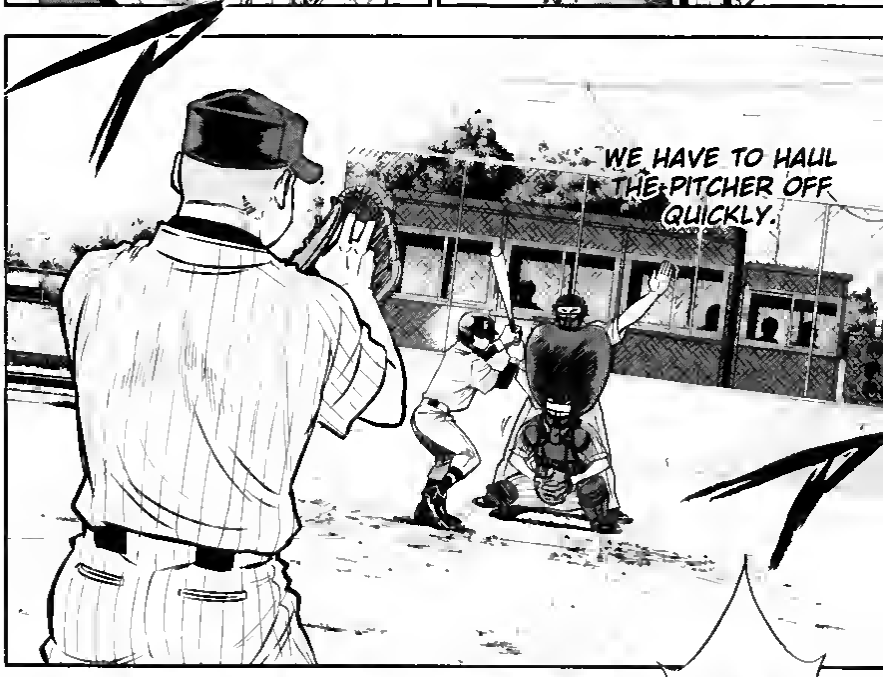
AUGUST
28TH 1PM
SEIDOU
(WEST TOKYO)
—
YAKUSHI
(WEST TOKYO)

LAST ONE!
3RD BATTER, CATCHER
AKIBA KAZUMA
HE'S THE GUY WHO PLAYED 1ST BASE IN THE SUMMER QUALIFIER.
THAT CATCHER IS ALSO FROM THE OUTFIELD.
Starter
T/N: NO TYPO. A NICKNAME BY SANADA
TAKE IT EASY, MISSHIMA.
5TH BATTER, PITCHER
MISHIMA YUUTA

I CAN STEP IN ANY TIME.
6TH BATTER, 1ST BASE
SANADA SHUNPEI
THERE'S NO NEED FOR SANADA-SENPAI'S TURN!
AND ENOUGH WITH MISSHI-MA!!
PITCHERS SHOULDN'T GET IRRITATED!
LET THEM HIT YOUR PITCHES WITHOUT WORRIES!!
Come on, come on
IF WE GIVE UP RUNS, WE'LL GET THEM BACK!!
4TH BATTER, 3RD BASE
TODOROKI RAICHI
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A NEW TEAM, SANADA IS NOT A STARTER..
KAHAHAHAHAHA
SHUT UP! DON'T SAY THAT KIND OF STUFF BEFORE I PITCH!

Hmm—


ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE'S THE ACE.
BUT... THERE'S NO MISTAKE


WE HAVE TO HAUL THE PITCHER OFF QUICKLY.

PLAY BALL!

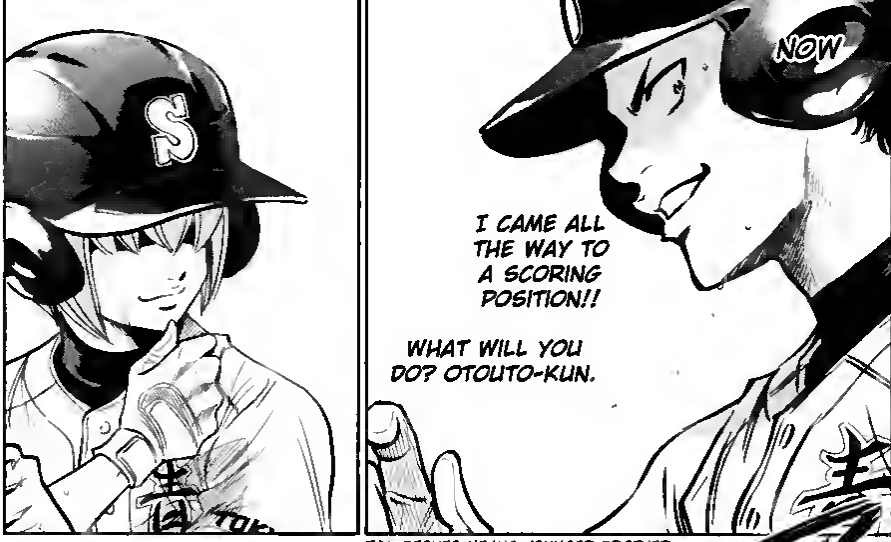
wink
IT MIGHT BE A SAFETY BUNT, RAICHI!!
I GET IT!
I GET IT.
wink wink wink
TODAY, I WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN ATTACKING.
I GOT 2 HITS IN THE PREVIOUS GAME...
WHEN I ENROLLED IN THIS HIGH SCHOOL, I MADE A SECRET VOW.
THERE IS WORTH ONLY IF I AM AIMING AT IT FOR REAL—!

AND 4TH BATTER
THE ACE
I WILL TAKE BOTH—
B
0
1

Argh!
YEAH! IN FRONT OF THE CENTER FIELDER!
NICE BATTING, KURA-SAN!!

HE'S GOING FOR 2ND!!
HIDE——!! HURRY!!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!!
SERIOUS-LY!

WOW~~~ HE'S IN TOP CONDITION TODAY...
AH... HE TURNED THAT HIT INTO A DOUBLE...
TOKYO
NOW HE'S DONE IT!
HE AIMED FOR IT WITHOUT HESITATION!
...



T/N: OTOUTO MEANS YOUNGER BROTHER.

Ack!
Ys
SAFETY BUNT!!
GREAT!
HE'S GOOD AT USING THESE TRICKS!!

HUH!?

But could do better!!
Not a bad bunt
1 OUT—!!
THE INFIELDERS SENT IT BACK HOME!
THIS GUY... WHAT AMAZING DASHING SPEED...
ダイヤのA
Don't get ahead of yourself!
LET THEM HIT MORE OF IT!!
THE TROUBLES HE CAUSED WITH HIS ERRORS DON'T MAKE UP FOR HIS FINE PLAY...
IT'S A FLUKE.
A FLUKE!

1 OUT, RUNNER ON 3RD.
ALTHOUGH IT'S THE 1ST INNING, IF HE'S GOING FOR A SURE RUN IT MIGHT BE A SQUEEZE PLAY...
YEARGH!
WOOO
BAM

CHAPTER 209 /
MONSTER'S DEMAND
Damn
HE'S PITCHING ALL FORKBALLS.
BATTER OUT!
BOOM
STRIKE!

YOU USED TOO MUCH POWER, MAEZO-NO—!!
AH~~~ STRUCK OUT.
2 OUTS SO EASILY.

YEAH, THE SPEED IS ALSO FASTER THAN EXPECTED
THAT FORKBALL SINKS A LOT.

ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF I HIT THE FORKBALL AND SCORED FIRST...
THESE GUYS ARE A VERY GOOD BATTERY...
2 out~~~
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A RUNNER ON 3RD, HE DECIDED ON LOW BREAKING BALLS...

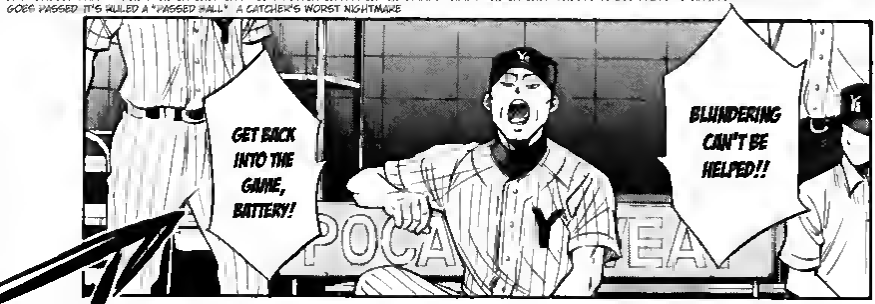
DON'T BE TOO GREEDY, HIT IT TO THE CENTER PERFECTLY AND JUST SEND THE RUNNER BACK HOME—

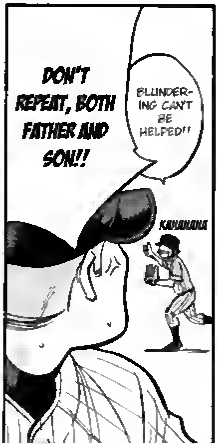
Damn handsome guy
HE DOES GIVE OFF A CERTAIN AURA.
Damn
CAN HE DO IT!? CAN HE BECOME A REAL LEADER!?
THE ONE TO SETTLE IT AT THIS MOMENT IS THE CLEANUP!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, MIYUKI
THAT'S A GIVEN.
OF COURSE YOU'LL BE ATTACKING, YUUTA..

I AM A MAN WHO'S ONLY INTERESTED IN VICTORY AND DEFEAT.
BOOM

AH.
NO.
.....

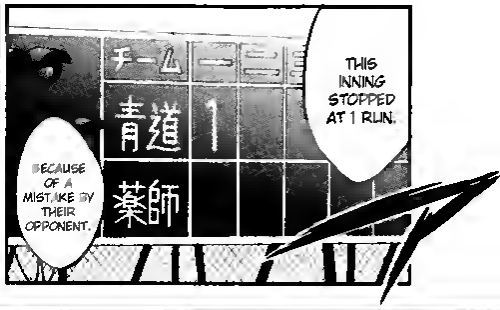
P/N: "PASSED BALL" = WHEN THE CATCHER CAN'T CONTROL/CATCH A PITCH THE UMPIRE THINKS THE CATCHER SHOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE GOES PASSED IT'S RULED A "PASSED BALL" A CATCHER'S WORST NIGHTMARE





YOU CAN'T HIT WHEN THERE AREN'T ANY RUNNERS!!
I aimed too much—
I DON'T HIT WELL RECENTLY IN EITHER SITUATIONS...
THAT GUY'S STILL THE SAME!
AHHH—!! A POP FLY TOWARDS 1ST.

NOW... WHAT HAPPENS FROM HERE ON MATTERS...


チーム
青道 1
薬師
BECAUSE OF A MISTAKE BY THEIR OPPONENT.
THIS INNING STOPPED AT 1 RUN.

Let's go
HOW WILL THEY TAKE ON YAKUSHI'S BATTERS—
TOKYO

TOKYO
青道
TOKYO
WHAT IS IT?
……

CAN I PITCH FOR THE WHOLE GAME TODAY?
MY PROBLEM IS THAT I DON'T HAVE THE STAMINA TO PITCH FOR LATE INTO THE GAME.
3 INNINGS IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ME.
!

NO WAY!!
PLEASE...
.....

INSTEAD OF PITCHING FOR 9 INNINGS
IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GET OUTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM.
TOKYO

THIS GAME DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU ALONE.

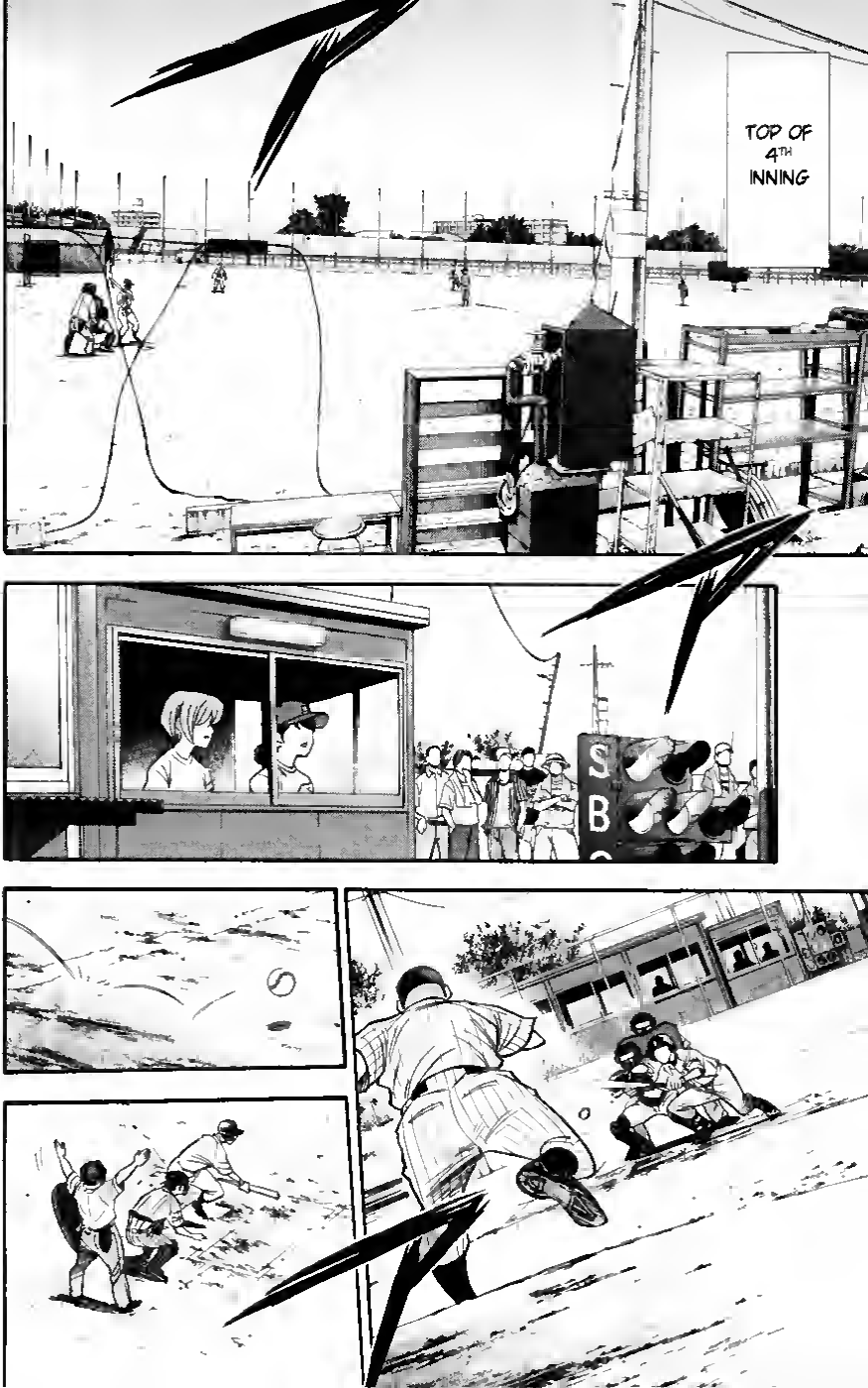
BUT.. WELL, I DON'T MIND LETTING YOU PITCH LONGER, DEPENDING ON YOUR PERFORMANCE..
SO HIS IMPRESSION OF AN ACE IS SOMEONE WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY PITCHES 9 COMPLETE INNINGS...?
NOW LET'S GO!
PITCHING 9 INNINGS ON HIS OWN.. SOUNDS DEPENDABLE.
HYAHAHAHA YOU'RE SO INTERESTING!
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE EXPRESSIONLESS, YOU'RE TOO EASY TO READ

HE WOULDN'T HAVE SAID SO IF HE DIDN'T HAVE THE RESOLUTION AND CONFIDENCE TO BACK HIS WORDS.
YEAH... I'M SURPRISED TOO.
BY FURUYA'S TENACITY FOR KEEPING THE MOUND.

UWOOOH, HERE IT COMES!!
SUDDENLY STRIKING OUT 2 CONSECUTIVE BATTERS!!
HE'S ALSO GOING ALL OUT TODAY!!
I REALLY HAVE TO THANK YOU GUYS...

FOR SHOWING ALL YOUR ABILITIES WITHOUT HOLDING ANYTHING BACK.
YOU GUYS THANK THEM IN THE BATTER'S BOX.

CHAPTER 210 / STEPS


TOP OF
4TH
INNING
S
B

THAT PITCHER PITCHES A LOT OF BREAKING BALLS.
STILL, I WANT A SAC BUNT TO SETTLE THIS INNING.
HAHAHA
I won't let you off easy
Damn.
Raichuu
1 out
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF. THAT KID...
DON'T YOU BOO!!
BOOOOOO

KAHAHAHA
TOP!
AAHH—A DOUBLE PLAY—!!
SEIDOU IS UNABLE TO MAKE USE OF THEIR CHANCE IN THIS INNING TOO!!
Yeah—
SOMEHOW IT'S STARTING TO FEEL PECULIAR AGAIN?
HAHAHAHA
Nice fluke!
KAHA—
THEY DID HIT
BUT NO HOMERUNS.

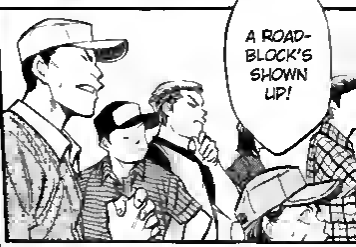
チーム
一二三四五六七八
青道 1000
薬師 000
EVEN THOUGH I WAS EXPECTING A SLUGFEST,
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE GAME TO END AS A PITCHER'S BATTLE WITH YAKUSHI...
RIGHT NOW, THE ONLY ONE REAPING THE BENEFITS IS THIS MAN...

STRIKE! BATTER OUT!!
I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS AN OBVIOUS BALL, BUT OUT OF THE BLUE IT'S A CONTROLLED PITCH WITH GOOD TRAJECTORY...
Damn! can't hit it
Wow! The 6th one!
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, AKIBA~~
Oi~~~

IT'S TOUGH TO GET A HOLD OF THEM.
SHOULD I SAY HIS PITCHES ARE ROUGH AT THE RIGHT TIMES?

IT'S NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT, OI!!
YAKUSHI'S BATTERS AREN'T ABLE TO HANDLE IT!
YEAH!!
IT'S ALREADY 2 OUT.
HIS PITCHES ARE BAD NEWS!
IT'S REALLY HARD TO BAT WHEN SUCH POWERFUL PITCHES ARE COMING IN LOW .

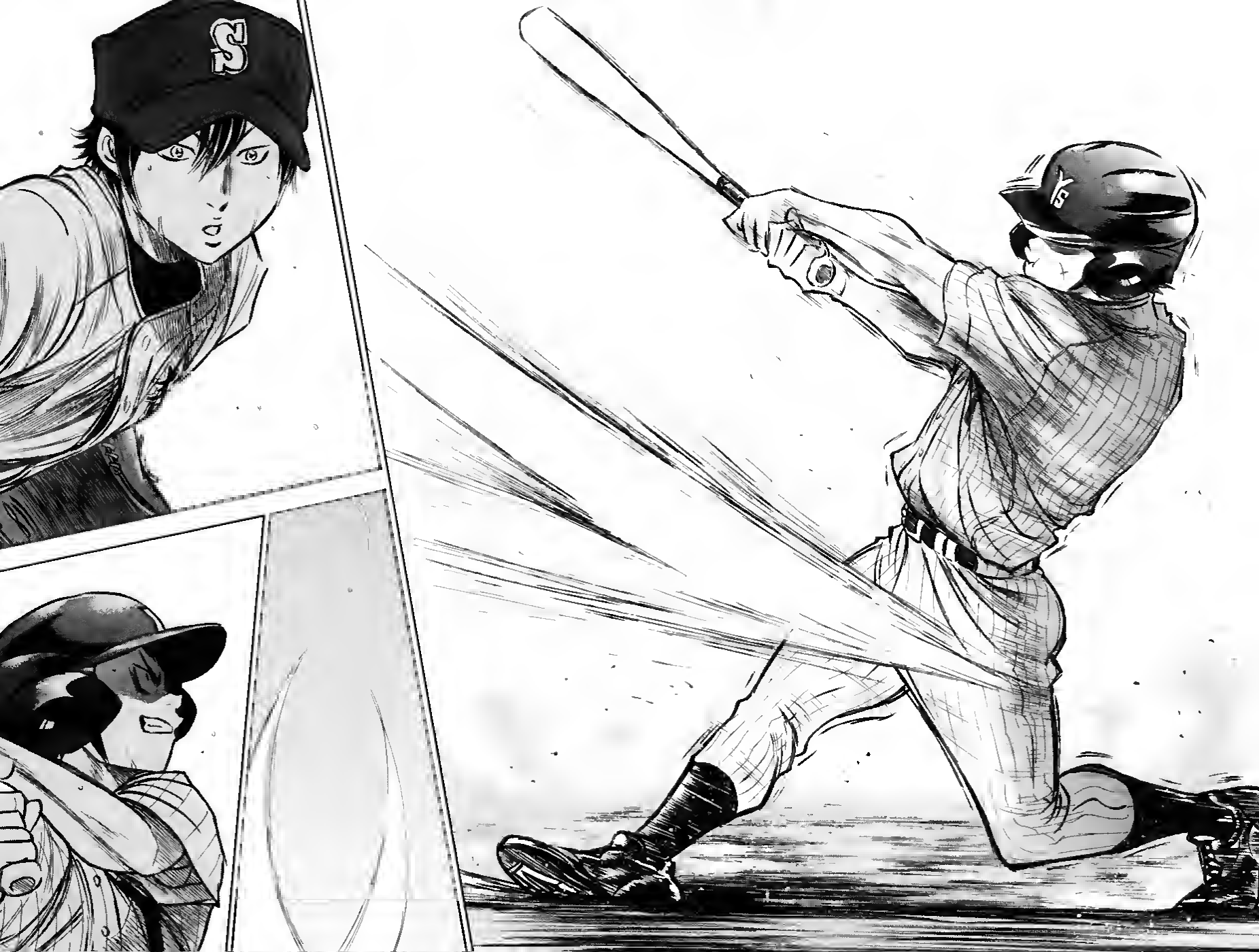
IT IS GREAT THAT THERE AREN'T ANY RUNNERS ON BASE
WELL... ALTHOUGH A HOMERUN WOULD BE FEARSOME.


A ROAD-BLOCK'S SHOWN UP!

THE ONLY HIT SO FAR WAS THE DOUBLE OFF THIS GUY'S BAT...

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, GIVE HIM A HOMERUN THAT WILL TRAUMATIZE HIM IN THE NEXT GAME.
HIT THEM HARD, RAICHI
TO HOLD HIM OFF WITH YOUR POWERS, WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON LOWERING THE PITCHES.
THIS GUY WILL STILL HIT EVEN IF THE PITCH IS SLIGHTLY OUT OF THE ZONE,

Ys



UWOOOOOH! TODOROKI WAS STRUCK OUT ON 3 STRAIGHT PITCHES!!
TOKYO
IT'S ANOTHER THREE UP, THREE DOWN INNING FOR YAKUSHI!
...
HOLD THEM OFF WITH STRIKES!

THIS GUY IS ALSO A MONSTER!!
INCREDIBLE... HOW FAST IS HE PITCHING?
DOESN'T ANYONE HAVE A SPEED GUN!?
WE'RE LUCKY TO SEE HIS PITCHING IN A PRACTICE GAME.
Hahaha ha
HOW CAN WE LET OUR OPPONENT GAIN SELF-CONFIDENCE?!
HE NO LONGER DOUBTS HIS PITCHES, AND HE DOESN'T EXERT TOO MUCH UNNECESSARY STRENGTH.
HE'S STARTING TO MAKE GOOD USE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AS A STARTER FROM THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP...

Amazing
THIS GUY... GREW AGAIN.
Huu—
I...
DON'T WANT TO FEEL THAT AGAIN...
I WON'T HAND THE MOUND OVER TO ANYONE ELSE ANYMORE.

CONTINUE IN VOLUME 25

青道選手図鑑

SEIDOU PLAYER PROFILE

Vol.18

KANEMARU SHINJI
(1ST YEAR)

-Born in Tokyo Capital Area
-Position: 3rd Base
-Throws: Right Bats: Right
-Bloodtype: A
-The leader of the 1st years
-Was on the same team as Toujou during middle school
-Has great self confidence and hates to lose
-Hates Sawamura initially because he thought he was just all talk. Right now, he acknowledges Sawamura.
-Artists he likes: The Strokes, The Libertines

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栗栖正義

齋藤優作

林本勇気

長瀬宙夢

SPECIAL THANKS

山田聡子

清水貴司

EDITOR

KIICHIRO SUGAWARA

TETSUYA FUJIKAWA

利き腕が逆だったり監督が途中から別人になったり、
小さなミス、大きなミスいろいろありますが(汗)、
これも週刊連載のライブ感ということで!!
そう考えると少し気が楽になったので
これからはミスはそのまま載せてしまおう…!!(笑)
もちろん、一生懸命がんばりますが!!!
お手紙いつもありがとうございます。最近、原稿に時間がかかりすぎて、
なかなか返事できませんが、勇気もらってます。ありがとう。

寺嶋裕二

THE ONE TO BECOME THE ACE IS
ME!!
YAKUSHI'S ALL-POWERFUL BATTERS TEST THE REAL STRENGTH OF SEIDOU'S PITCHERS.